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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 113 | MONDAY MAY 14, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Senate hires lawyer to file brief on local casino bill. PAGE 3
Is Europe a safe place to buy? Not exactly. PAGE 15

US House cuts $100M in Medicaid funding for NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Families, officials brace for drastic impact
» 3 caucuses hit GOP for $6.3B cuts to US territories

The U.S. House of Representatives passed Thursday a Republican bill that would slash Medicaid funding to the CNMI by $100 million and a total of $6.3 billion to all five U.S. territories, but delegates are hoping that the Democrat-led U.S. Senate will trash the proposal.

For low-income families and officials in the CNMI, a $100-million Medicaid funding cut spells disaster at a time when household expenses are already high and the Commonwealth Health Corp. teeters on the brink of a shutdown due to lack of funding.

"It would be too much to bear for families like us if Medicaid assistance is cut," Precy Villafuerte, a 40-year-old mother of a 6-year-old told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Villafuerte said Medicaid helps cover for expenses when their child becomes sick, needs checkups, and when there are medical emergencies.

"I hope this funding will not be cut. They should have mercy on all of us. It's already too much to receive a 13.6-percent cut in food stamp benefits, and any cut in medical assistance would make it worse. Power rates are high, families have to make ends meet," she said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said during the weekend that the passage of the Medicaid funding cut

See MEDICAID on Page 4

Quarry closure stymies mayor's office's job of maintaining roads

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Flores

The Saipan Mayor's Office has been unable to carry out its job of maintaining, improving, and repairing secondary roads following the recent closure of the Kannat Tabla quarry by the Department of Public Lands.

Mayor Donald G. Flores said that

See QUARRY on Page 4

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

» Hospital begins recruitment efforts on-island; plans to recruit from PH

The number of nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center is expected to go down to about 130 by the end of the year and the public hospital's nursing department has already begun its recruitment efforts, according to nursing director Leticia Reyes.

In her report to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board Thursday, Reyes

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CLARISSA V. DAVID
Commonwealth Health Center nursing director Leticia Reyes, second right, gives her report during a special meeting of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board on Thursday.

BASED ON GOVERNMENT SURVEY:

Most wage earners in NMI below mean hourly wage

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Generally, US citizens' wage rates higher than non-US citizens

Most wage earners in the CNMI are below the mean hourly wage of $8.82 and median hourly wage of $5.50, excluding fringe benefits, and U.S. citizens generally have hourly wage rates higher than non-U.S. citizens, based on the just released first part of the CNMI Prevailing Wage Workforce Assessment Study that the CNMI government conducted.

More than half—59 percent—of 2,908 establishments in the CNMI have only one to four employees and only 2 percent or 45 have at least 50 employees.

U.S. citizens born in the CNMI had a mean hourly wage rate of $10.41 and a median $8.01, excluding fringe benefits, at the time of the survey. U.S. citizens born outside the CNMI had a mean wage

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POLL RESULTS

Do you intend to sign the petition to place the question of Saipan casino legalization on the Nov. 6 ballot?

Yes	69
No	132
Undecided	7

Sunday, May 13, 2012

INSIDE

WORLD

Taking advantage of Egypt's upheaval, thieves have gone on a treasure hunt. ➤ PAGE 17

HEALTH & FITNESS

The 30-year battle against AIDS is on the verge of a radical new phase. ➤ PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE

A video featuring cancer-stricken children lip-synching to Kelly Clarkson's "Stronger" is a hit. ➤ PAGE 20

Local

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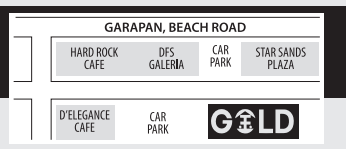

Mother sues CHC, NMI govt for death of her baby

A mother has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the CNMI government, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., and other co-defendants for the death of her baby, who died last year from meningitis and infections.

Susan T. Haleyalgiy, through counsel Michael Dotts, is demanding unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

The Department of Public Health, Tinian Health Center, Dr. Priyawathan Wijay, and nine unnamed persons were also named co-defendants.

According to Dotts, the death of the baby, Jackary Jay Taimanao San Nicolas (Jackary) occurred as a result of the failure to immediately diagnose and treat his illness.

According to the complaint, Jackary was born normal at the CHC on Saipan on Feb. 11, 2010. After passing the hearing test, he was brought to Tinian where the family lives.

On March 18, 2010, Jackary developed a high fever. His mother brought him to the Tinian Health Center where a nurse-in-training took his temperature and advised the mother to give him Tylenol. The nurse-in-training administered the first dose. She did not allow Haleyalgiy and the baby to see the doctor.

Later that same day, the family returned to the Tinian Health Center with Jackary because the fever had not subsided. Still no doctor was contacted.

The following day, Jackary was brought to the Tinian Health Center for the third time because his fever had not subsided. This time he was seen by Dr. Wijay, Dotts said, "and amazingly all the doctor did was give Amoxicillin and Tylenol drops."

On March 20, 2010, Haleyalgiy called and asked the Tinian Health Center staff to give the baby an x-ray to determine his illness as she suspects the child may have meningitis after researching on the Internet. The staff told the mother they could not perform x-rays because the child did not have any injuries. She was told to keep giving the infant Tylenol.

Haleyalgiy allegedly repeated to the staff more than five times her suspicions that Jackary may have meningitis but the THC staff did not consult with a doctor and did not listen to her.

On March 22, 2010, as the baby couldn't breath and his left eye was twitching, a friend helped the mother see nurse practitioner Arley Long. Long checked the baby and stated that he has to be sent to CHC on Saipan because he has meningitis.

The baby was brought to the intensive care unit of the Saipan CHC where he was given a spinal tap and diagnosed with bacterial meningitis and complications with infection.

On March 25, 2010, the baby stopped breathing so a tube was placed in his throat. He was then referred to the Asian Hospital in the Philippines from March 29, 2010 to June 4, 2010.

The baby lost his sight and hearing and a tube was placed in his stomach because he couldn't eat. The doctors said there was nothing they could do now but to train Haleyalgiy how to take care of the child.

On Aug. 16, 2011, baby Jackary died.

Dotts asserted that the defendants owed a duty to Jackary to provide medical advice, care, and treatment within the professionally recognized standards of medical care. Had Jackary been diagnosed earlier and treated properly, he would not have suffered serious consequences from his illness, Dotts said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Senate hires lawyer to file brief on local casino bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate has hired attorney Sean Frink for the potential filing of an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief related to a certified question whether or not a local law such as a casino legislation enacted by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation is considered a Commonwealth law.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Senate believes that the Saipan delegation is not authorized to enact a local law establishing casino gaming on Saipan.

He said that as the lone Senate legal is already overwhelmed with work, they asked the Legislative Bureau to hire an outside counsel for the local casino bill issue.

The Senate, through its attorney, already notified both Reps. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) and Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) of the Senate's intent to file a brief of *amicus curiae* in support of Yumul's principal brief.

Palacios, in an interview with reporters, said the issue now is about the power of the Saipan delegation, and not merely the casino bill itself.

"I believe that the Senate was hoping that with the governor's veto of a local bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan, it would become a dead issue. But it's not. I submitted a certified question, along with Rep. Yumul. I had asked the governor if he wanted to be a party, he said 'no.' Now the Senate wants to join, supporting Yumul's position," Palacios said.

Palacios and Yumul filed the certified question with the Supreme Court without a lawyer.

The Senate, Palacios said, intends to file an *amicus* brief with the help of a lawyer.

Yumul said a local law establishing casino gaming on Saipan, enacted by a delegation or the Legislature, is unconstitutional and not Commonwealth law because (1) such local law contains a subject matter that is not a local matter as defined by the NMI Constitution and the Legislature; (2) such local law conflicts with Public Law 3-70; and (3) such local law conflicts with Article 21 of the NMI Constitution.

The Senate rejected in 2010 a House bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan. After that, the House leadership introduced a local bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan and that bill passed the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, however, vetoed the local bill, saying it's unconstitutional.

Palacios and Yumul said Public Law 3-77 states that in case the governor vetoes a local bill, the Legislature may override the governor's veto by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of each house of the Legislature.

But they said if House Local Bill 17-44, or the local Saipan casino bill was overridden by both houses of the Legislature, the enacted law still remains a local law, and the status of the local law in this case remains subject to the issue: "Is a local law a Commonwealth law and what about this relationship to Article 21 of the NMI Constitution?"

After the Senate killed a House Saipan casino bill in 2010, the House leadership introduced another House bill legalizing casinos on Saipan and this passed the House once again. But the Senate killed it again in March this year.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), now a strong supporter of a Saipan casino bill, said yesterday he didn't know anything about the Senate's hiring of a lawyer for the casino issue.

Police sergeant arrested for alleged domestic violence

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A police sergeant was arrested yesterday afternoon for allegedly being involved in a domestic violence incident, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Sources at the Department of Public Safety and at the Department of Corrections disclosed that Sgt. Vicente Tagabuel was detained at 2pm. No other details of his arrest were immediately available as of press time.

Tagabuel's current assignment is at the Summons and Warrant Office.

In December last year, the Office of the Attorney General charged Tagabuel with alleged theft of utility services. It is not clear yet whether the case is pending in court.

Tagabuel was not arrested in that case as the OAG only served him with penal summons to appear in the Superior Court to answer the charges on Dec. 12, 2011. The police sergeant pleaded not guilty.

In the criminal information, assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing stated that, on April 15 to 27, 2011 on Saipan, Tagabuel "intended to obtain utility services for his benefit or for the benefit of another without paying the full amount."

Lorfing said that Tagabuel "knowingly committed the theft of utility services totaling in the approximate amount of $196.70 by bypassing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s meter."

When asked about the filing of the theft case, Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham at that time stated that the OAG endeavors to uphold justice regardless of rank, familial ties, or one's career path.

Buckingham said that consistent with the criminal information that has been filed, they believe that Tagabuel committed the crime of theft of utility services. He said the presentation of evidence and information will be presented in its proper forum—a court of law.

"We respect that any accused person is presumed innocent and the Office of the Attorney General is required to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt," he said.

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WAGE

From Page 1

rate of $15.83 and a median wage rate of $9.92 excluding fringe.

Workers from other countries including Canada and Australia had a $27.45 mean hourly wage and $17.69 median hourly wage, excluding fringe benefits.

Bangladeshi nationals had the lowest mean hourly wage of $5.28 and median hourly wage of $5.05.

Philippine nationals had a mean hourly wage of $6.45 and median hourly wage of $5.05 an hour, excluding fringe benefits.

By ethnic group, Caucasians had the highest mean hourly wage of $22.72, and Bangladeshis had the lowest at $5.45.

The hourly mean wage rate by industry excluding fringe was highest in finance and insurance at $13.26, and the lowest in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.

Press secretary Angel Demapan earlier said that although the Saipan Chamber of Commerce initially released a study last year, the government's "comprehensive report encompasses a broader population base and focused not only on the prevailing wage but also on the workforce assessment that should be released by end of this month."

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the Chamber "applauds the CNMI for concluding their own prevailing wage rates" for those petitioning U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for H-1B visas through the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification.

"Having our two survey summary reports available to CNMI employers should more than suffice for the next two years, or until another survey, with more finite data, is involved in processing visa applications," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune.*

He also said the Chamber "hopes an employer dependent upon the CNMI survey petitioning for an H-1B visa finds success. SCC was relieved when our work began being accepted as a basis for prevailing wage determinations."

These statistics aim to fulfill the requirement of U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control. It requires CNMI employers seeking to hire new employees from outside the CNMI to pay a wage rate equal to or above the average hourly wage rate for the particular occupation the employer is seeking to fill.

Prior to that, average hourly wage rates did not exist for all occupations in the CNMI so employers had to use wage rates from Guam, Hawaii, and other U.S. jurisdictions. This was not favorable to the CNMI, whose economy has lower wage rates.

Government enumerators visited a total of 1,806 businesses, autonomous agencies, private schools, and other organizations. Of those visited, 1,486 responded and 1,201 reported employee data to the PWWAS.

At the time of the survey, there were 2,908 establishments with 21,399 employees.

Of these establishments, 59 percent or 1,705 had between one and four employees; 12 percent or 360 had between five and nine employees; 12 percent or 333 had between 10 and 49 employees; and less than 2 percent or 45 had 50 or more employees.

Man gets 93-day prison term for disturbing his wife's peace

A man was slapped with a 93-day prison term for cursing and yelling at his wife and for breaking several household items.

In an order Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Prisco Ongrung to six months in prison, all suspended except for 93 days, with credit for the 93 days he has already served in jail. This means he will no longer serve further prison time.

The 39-year-old Ongrung was placed on probation for one year and prohibited from having any contact with his wife. He was also required to complete anger management counseling and submit to alcohol and drug assessment treatment, if recommended.

Ongrung is also barred from alcoholic beverages and from going into bars. He was ordered to pay a $200 court costs and probation fees and to perform 50 hours of community service.

Ongrung pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal. He disturbed the peace of his wife on Feb. 5, 2012, yelling, cursing, and breaking household items.

In July 2011, Ongrung was arrested after he allegedly beat up a friend and repeatedly hit him with a baton in Dandan over a dispute about methamphetamine or "ice." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CHC

From Page 1

said that of the 167 nurses that CHC had in January, 20 have already tendered their resignations and 10 have verbalized their intent to resign, while seven more will be staying until November.

These nurses—registered nurses, licensed practical nurses or LPNs, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and nursing assistants—will start leaving by the end of May.

Reyes noted that the nurses who will be leaving gave the hospital at least three months' notice, giving CHC the chance to look for replacements. The nurses who quit will also help train the new hires, she added.

According to Reyes, there are a lot of factors why CHC nurses are leaving, including the approval of their U.S. visas, which now allow them to work in the U.S. mainland.

Board member Pedro Dela Cruz said that the corporation should start looking at hiring nurses that can commit to stay for at least many years to allow the corporation to recoup the funds they spent in hiring these nurses.

Dr. Jeremy Richards, Medical Affairs director, argued that the corporation should create a work environment that would entice these nursing professionals to remain with CHC.

According to Richards, losing nurses is "really crippling" to the operations of the hospital as physicians rely on these staff and replacing "experienced and valuable" nurses with inexperienced ones is not the same.

On-island hires

Reyes disclosed that they already found 24 nurses on island who are willing to come in and work at CHC after an interview with many applicants about two weeks ago.

According to Reyes, all 24 nurses are qualified and have passed the National Council Licensure Examination or NCLEX and are currently working in private clinics and health agencies on island.

Reyes recently attended a presentation conducted by David Gulick, Honolulu district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and found out that if these 24 nurses have prior CW1 approval and CHC decides to start their petition process, the nurses can start working right away as soon as they get the petition receipt.

When asked if the 24 nurses are still willing to work at CHC despite the corporation's financial situation, Reyes said the nurses are familiar with the situation through news reports and still expressed their willingness to be employed.

She said these nurses are still willing to come in even with the possibility of permanently losing any housing benefit.

In anticipation of the declining nursing staff level, Reyes disclosed that they plan to expand their recruitment efforts to the Philippines since the number of available nurses on island will not suffice to meet the hospital's needs.

"But of course, as much as we can, we want to retain our nurses. They've been here for a long time. We don't have to train them…In my case as director of nursing, we just have to be prepared with any situation," added Reyes.

Human resources director Marciana Igitol disclosed that she is in communication with the University of Guam nursing director to look at the possibility of hiring the 26 graduates of the institution's nursing program this year.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Health Care Professions Licensing Board meeting

The Health Care Professions Licensing Board will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, at 3:30pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room no. 3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan. ***(PR)***

Deadline approaching for financial disclosure filing

This is to remind all individuals who may be required to file OPA Form EC-101, the Statement of Financial Interest, that the deadline for filing is May 31, 2012. Any person failing to comply with the financial disclosure requirements of this law is subject to financial and other penalties, including a $10 per day fine for any periods of delinquency.

For more information, visit or call the Office of the Public Auditor; send a facsimile to 322-7812 (the OPA facsimile phone); or contact OPA via e-mail at mail@opacnmi.com. You may also visit OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com for detailed information about filing requirements. ***(OPA)***

QUARRY

From Page 1

they suspended this particular service despite being mandated to do so. "It completely stopped us from delivering those services because that's where we get the corals we use on these secondary roads," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

DPL closed its Kannat Tabla quarry on April 25 to prevent the Saipan Mayor's Office and Hawaiian Rock Products from further extracting coral from the site after preliminary findings showed that the mayor's office has no permit from DPL and its predecessor, Marianas Public Lands Authority, to use the quarry since at least 2005.

Flores noted that they have equipment they have been unable to retrieve from the quarry site due to the lockup.

Flores' adviser, Henry Hofschneider, said the Saipan Mayor's Office acknowledges that the permit expired in 2004 and that former mayor Juan B. Tudela wrote a letter to MPLA asking for an extension of the permit.

Both Flores and Hofschneider pointed out, though, that coral was still being extracted even before their administration was sworn into office in January 2010.

Two months later, the Saipan Mayor's Office entered into a memorandum of agreement with Hawaiian Rock Products so the latter can excavate and provide coral to the former free of charge since the Saipan Mayor's Office lacks the equipment to do it on its own.

With the closure of the quarry, Flores said they were unable to serve a family that recently requested his office to cover an area that will be used for parking space. The family was going to use the space for a funeral.

According to Flores, most of the coral they receive from Hawaiian Rock are used to improve roads or areas in homesteads, particularly those in Kagman, which still has a lot of unpaved roads.

Hofschneider questioned why DPL would raise the issue at this point even as DPL director of compliance Ray Cruz earlier said that it took them "a little longer" to catch the lack of permit.

"If Ray Cruz says he has only two inspectors to work on compliance issues, are there any more cases like us without them being aware of it? Why start with the Mayor's Office, which extracts coral for the purpose of delivering it to the community?" asked Hofschneider.

He said their case is similar to that of DPL notifying the Marianas Visitors Authority regarding the unauthorized use of Tachogna Beach for the Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

One of the biggest crowd-drawing events on Tinian, the festival has been held at Tachogna Beach for several years now, including this year's celebration held last Feb. 18 and 19.

Hofschneider said that DPL should have given Flores "due courtesy" in addressing the issue. He added that DPL should have raised the issue first and requested for an audience from or written a letter to the Saipan Mayor's Office before locking up the facility.

Flores said the Saipan Mayor's Office and DPL are both government entities and should work together for the benefit of the community. Flores and Hofschneider said they are set to meet with DPL within the week to discuss this matter further.

MEDICAID

From Page 1

"takes away all of the Medicaid funding for the U.S. territories that we worked so hard to have included in health care reform legislation during the Democrat-led 111th Congress."

"That's a loss of about $100 million for the Northern Marianas," Sablan said.

Three days before the House passed the proposal, the chairpersons of the Congressional Black, Hispanic, and Asian Pacific American caucuses wrote to the leaders of both parties in the U.S. House to express their strong opposition to the proposed cut to territorial Medicaid funding.

"Specifically, this legislation would repeal a provision in the Affordable Care Act that sought to improve the unjust treatment that the 4.1 million Americans in the five U.S. territories have historically endured under the Medicaid program. If enacted, these cuts would have a devastating impact in the territories," the chairpersons of the caucuses said in their two-page letter.

To no avail.

The Medicaid funding cut was part of the Republican Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act, H.R. 5652 or the fiscal year 2013 spending plan that Sablan said "reflects the majority's unbalanced approach to deficit reduction."

"They provide costly additional tax breaks for millionaires while finding savings by ending the Medicare guarantee for seniors, cutting food stamps, and taking away Medicaid from the territories," he said.

Sablan, who has been an independent since he first ran for office, has been aligning himself with Democrats in Congress. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, chairman of the Republican Party of the CNMI, wants Sablan replaced with a Republican.

Fitial also earlier joined territorial governors in asking a House committee not to cut Medicaid funding to the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the funding cut is "unfortunate" not only for the CNMI but other territories as well.

"It's a big blow for the Commonwealth and other territories. This will be very detrimental. It's also unfortunate that our governor thinks that the Republicans in Congress are our friends," Manglona said last night.

Manglona said the CNMI should rally behind Sablan and other territorial delegates in asking the U.S. Senate to kill the proposal to cut Medicaid funding.

Medicaid is the federal health care program for low-income families. Some 14,700 people in the Marianas, who cannot afford health insurance, are eligible for hospital care, outpatient services, and prescription drugs through Medicaid.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, said that providing healthcare would become more difficult than it already is if Medicaid funding for the CNMI is cut.

CDA nixes proration of QC annual fee

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Despite recommendation from the staff, the Commonwealth Development Authority board denied Friday the request made by two beneficiaries of the qualifying certificate program to prorate its annual fee of $2,000.

Board chair Pedro Itibus instructed Carline Sablan, economic development analyst who handles the QC program, to write a letter to the two beneficiaries about the board's decision.

One beneficiary has a QC expiring in September 2012, and it is requesting that the annual fee be prorated so they only pay for the 9 months that the QC is in effect. The other beneficiary has its QC signed in Dec. 28, 2010.

Sablan explained that she is in support of the proration request since this kind of policy will be "more customer-friendly and reasonable."

The board argued, however, that the QC policy requires the fee to be paid on an annual basis.

Board member Marcie Tomokane said the $2,000 fee covers all administrative work that Sablan performs for the program "and I don't see why we have to prorate it."

Comparing the QC to a driver's license, Tomokane explained that renewing an expired driver's license still gives the license holder his or her birthdate as the new expiration date of the license.

"We shouldn't be making a decision because it's customer-friendly. We have to make a decision based on SOP," said Tomokane, adding that the beneficiaries knew what they're getting into upon joining the QC program, and that includes the payment of the annual fee.

For board member Diego Songao, it's also the same case as a car registration, which is also paid on an annual basis regardless if the car breaks down anytime during the year.

Songao said he would understand if the beneficiary whose QC was signed on Dec. 28, 2010, would be prorated, which Sablan and the other board members contested, saying that if the proration policy is adopted, it should be applied for all.

According to Sablan, there are currently seven beneficiaries under the QC program.

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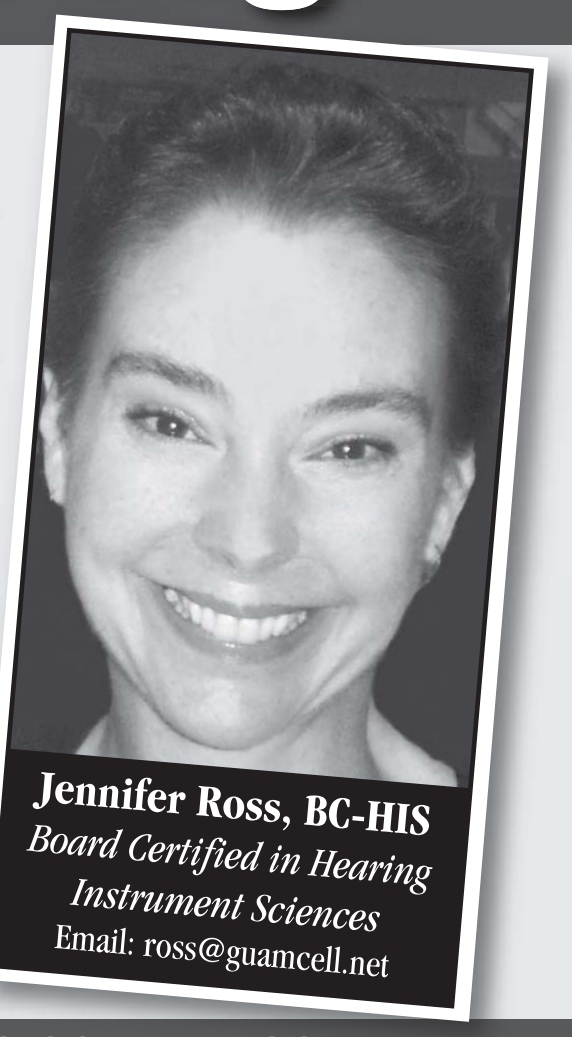

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Texas firm being sued by CPA sues engineer and contractor

A Texas company that is being sued by the Commonwealth Ports Authority for alleged defects in its design and management of the West Tinian Airport facility project is, in turn, now suing a civil engineer and a contractor.

Leo A. Daly Co., also called LADCO, filed last week in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a third-party complaint against civil engineer William S. Hofschneider and AIC Marianas Inc.

LADCO, through the O'Connor law firm, is suing Hofschneider for breach of contract.

LADCO is demanding contribution, indemnity, and reimbursement from Hofschneider and AIC Marianas if the court determines that CPA should recover damages against the company.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from Hofschneider and AIC Marianas.

LADCO was contracted by CPA on Jan. 22, 2003, to provide architectural, engineering, and management services for the construction of some renovation work at the West Tinian Airport.

On Dec. 22, 2004, CPA contracted AIC Marianas for general construction contracting services. The construction contract included an original price of $2,651,263.25 for work completed. AIC Marianas agreed to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment needed to construct and complete the improvement.

On Nov. 17, 2005, LADCO subcontracted Hofschneider for the construction management services that LADCO had agreed to provide CPA.

As required by the subcontract, Hofschneider was mandated to, among other things, perform the final "walk-through" to inspect the project and come up with a list of any items for completion.

The O'Connor law firm alleged that the subcontract required Hofschneider to indemnify LADCO against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, costs and reasonable attorney's fees that LADCO incurred as a result of Hofschneider's breach of the terms of the subcontract. The subcontract also allegedly required Hofschneider to indemnify LADCO for any negligent act, error, mistake or omission he commits in performing the subcontract.

CPA sued LADCO for breach of contract claims, professional malpractice claims, negligence, Consumer Protection Act claims, fraud claims, and a claim for violations of the CNMI Building Safety Code.

In its $1-million lawsuit against LADCO, CPA alleged that LADCO violated several aspects of its contract. "For example, LADCO's work was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, nor was it compliant with typhoon and earthquake standards applicable to Tinian," according to the complaint. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Judge grants Fund request for hearing on its several motions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris has granted the NMI Retirement Fund's request to immediately hold a hearing on its several motions.

On Thursday, Faris set the hearing on the Fund's motions for June 1, 2012, at 9:30am.

Faris said any opposition to the motions shall be filed on or before May 18 and any reply shall be due on or before May 25.

The judge directed the Fund to provide notice of the hearing to the U.S. Trustee, 20 of its largest unsecured creditors, parties that have requested notice in this case, the Office of the Attorney General, and counsel to the official committee of unsecured creditors.

The motions include:

■ An entry of order providing for the continued payment of certain benefits to Fund beneficiaries.

■ An entry of order establishing bar dates for filing proofs of claim and approving the form and manner of notice thereof of creditors other than Fund beneficiaries.

■ An entry of order authorizing the employment and retention of Boston-based law firm Brown Rudnick as counsel for the Fund in the bankruptcy case.

■ An entry of order authorizing the employment and retention of Buck Consultants as an actuarial consultant for the Fund.

■ An entry of order authorizing the retention and employment of the law office of Braddock J. Huesman as special counsel and designated local counsel for the Fund in the bankruptcy case.

Faris earlier granted the U.S. Trustee's request to conduct a hearing on June 1, 2012, at 9:30am on its motion to dismiss the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

DPS preps for Jailhouse Lock-Down fundraiser

The Department of Public Safety 2012 Police Week Committee said Friday that its Annual Law Enforcement Week activities are just around the corner and is inviting the general public to take part in its upcoming Jailhouse Lock-Down Fundraiser.

This event involves people visiting DPS or calling its hotline and posting a "bounty" on any of their friends or relatives whom they wish to have arrested. A fictitious arrest warrant will then be issued by the committee judge and bail will be set in the amount the judge finds suitable to fit the "charges." After that, the officers will then head out and "arrest" the "suspect" on the warrant, bring them back to the "jailhouse" and lock him/her up.

The "arrestee" will then be brought before the "judge" who will then set bail or issue a "special court order" [i.e., for arrestee to either sing or dance or perform any other activity to have his/her bail lowered]. Or the person could just post the required bail amount and be released.

Rules: The minimum bounty for an arrest to take effect is $25. For bounties that reach or exceed $100, the arrestee must either "match" the amount or perform the activity ordered by the judge in order to get released.

Arrestees will be treated to a special island meal free of charge that will be provided by the committee. Door prizes such as the "most consecutively arrested person" and "highest bounty" will be given out at the site. ***(DPS)***

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

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/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

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/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Students get 'Up Close' look at the Judiciary

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Organizers and guests of the Up Close Program summit sponsored by the CNMI Public School System pose for a group photo before the start of the panel discussion at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Ballroom last Friday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 200 students from public and private high schools in the CNMI took part in the Up Close Program sponsored by the Public School System at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Ballroom last Friday.

Students from Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Grace Christian Academy, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School had a glimpse of the CNMI court system with this year's Up Close Program topic, "Justice System in the CNMI."

Friday's event featured a discussion between the students and the panelists composed of acting CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, presiding judge Robert C. Naraja, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the U.S. District Court for the CNMI, U.S. District Court law clerk Richard Miller, and former attorney general Robert T. Torres.

Manglona, the first female judge in the U.S. District Court for the NMI and the first female attorney general in the CNMI, said in her brief remarks that the Up Close Program is a "wonderful opportunity" for professionals to share with high school students their knowledge of complicated issues in the community.

Naraja said that featuring the third branch of the government will allow the students to be educated about the rule of law and what justices, judges, and lawyers deal with that are "fundamentally critical" to the day-to-day lives of citizens.

"Today, we're here in the midst of very esteemed guests. …We are in the midst of very important people that make a lot of difference in the community," said Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, who welcomed all guests and participants to the event.

Sablan noted that students will deal with the law one way or another after leaving school and becoming full-fledged community members. She said Friday's event was the "perfect venue" for the students to get to know more about those who "make sure that the laws are enforced."

Court staffers did a slide presentation on the basics of the Judiciary and the justice system in the CNMI before the panelists answered questions from students.

This year marks the third Up Close Program, which brings students closer to the issues and concerns in the Commonwealth and have these students look at the issues from their own perspective, according to Sablan.

Last year's Up Close Program featured members of the Legislature and the topic was how the budget works. On its first year, the program focused on Article 12, the landownership restriction in the CNMI Constitution.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 14, 1999

House to dig old records for unused funds

The House Ways and Means Committee will sift through records dating as far back as 1993 to try to find available funds still remaining from the previous appropriation of more than $100 million worth of projects, according to chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes. Although they have no range yet on the amount of possible left-over money, the legislator expressed optimism the level of funds would be enough to finance various community projects being pitched by House members. "The more, the better," Reyes said in an interview. "It's not easy because we have to go back to old records one by one."

Teno rules out tie-up with Telesource

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday rejected plans for a possible joint venture with Telesource CNMI Inc. for the acquisition of two vessels from the financially-troubled Tinian Shipping Company Inc., saying that ferry operation is best left to the private sector. The governor also explained that the tight financial condition of his administration makes it impossible for the Commonwealth to undertake such major buy out. "We are not in the position to invest money," Tenorio told an interview. "I would rather see the government not involved in this private undertaking."

May 14, 2002

CPA to collect $300K from new seaport fees

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is projecting $300,000 in additional revenue from the implementation of the new seaport terminal tariffs beginning last month. CPA officials said the additional revenue would help the agency weather the consistent decline in seaport activities, allowing the ports authority to defray rising operational costs. The new seaport fees would also help the CPA's seaport division meet its bond obligations, according to Board Chair Roman S. Palacios, who also mentioned that the agency has been on the lookout for ways to increase its earnings without straining the revenue-generating capabilities of its tenants and customers.

USDA mulls allowing Saipan to tap housing funds

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is set to pool all its unused Underserved 502 Funds this June and it has expressed willingness to provide Saipan with funding that could be loaned out for its housing needs.Rep. William S. Torres said this is a departure from the usual use of the USDA's 502 Underserved funds, since prior USDA allocation for the CNMI were specifically allotted for Tinian and Rota only.This comes even as Torres lamented the fact that the two islands have not been fully maximizing the use of the USDA's 502 Underserved funds for their housing needs. This, despite the availability of some $568,341 that could be tapped by the Tinian and Rota for homeownership use.

May 14, 2003

House OKs plan for deficit reduction fund

The House of Representatives endorsed the administration's plan to dip into the deficit reduction fund to pay for the unanticipated costs resulting from the Supertyphoon Pongsona recovery efforts, including the CNMI's 10 percent local matching share in the disaster relief provided by the federal government. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider offered House Joint Resolution 13-30 in support of the administration's emergency spending plan to use some $2.17 million in reserve under the deficit reduction account. Although the CNMI is pressed for cash, the Speaker agreed that it is appropriate that the CNMI fulfill its local matching obligation to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

OPA gets $88K grant from DOI

The Office of the Public Auditor has received an $88,040 technical grant to be used to pay for the expenses of OPA auditors who will receive training at the Office of the Inspector General in Sacramento, California. Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary David Cohen approved the grant, which would go toward the per diem and travel expenses of resident auditors going to the OIG training on June 2, 2003. Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan told Cohen that two OPA auditors would go to Sacramento on that date to begin training. "Upon their return in September, they will be followed by another two staff auditors," said Sablan. The training program was initially set on March 1 but was delayed to June.

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality would like to extend our appreciation to all the groups and individuals who contributed to making this year's Environmental Awareness Month a huge success. Most especially, we would like to thank the following contributors and volunteers:

Thank you from DEQ!

- "Image In Motion" Choreographer, Sharmaine Casquero
- AGAPE School
- American Memorial Park
- APASEEM
- ASKS Fashion & Salon
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- CHC Nutritionist
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- CNMI Forestry
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- Tan Holdings Corporation
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- US Department of Agriculture, NRCS
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- World Resort Saipan
- Youth Environmental Ambassadors

Your contributions and efforts help us ensure the protection of a clean and healthy environment of all people of the CNMI!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 113

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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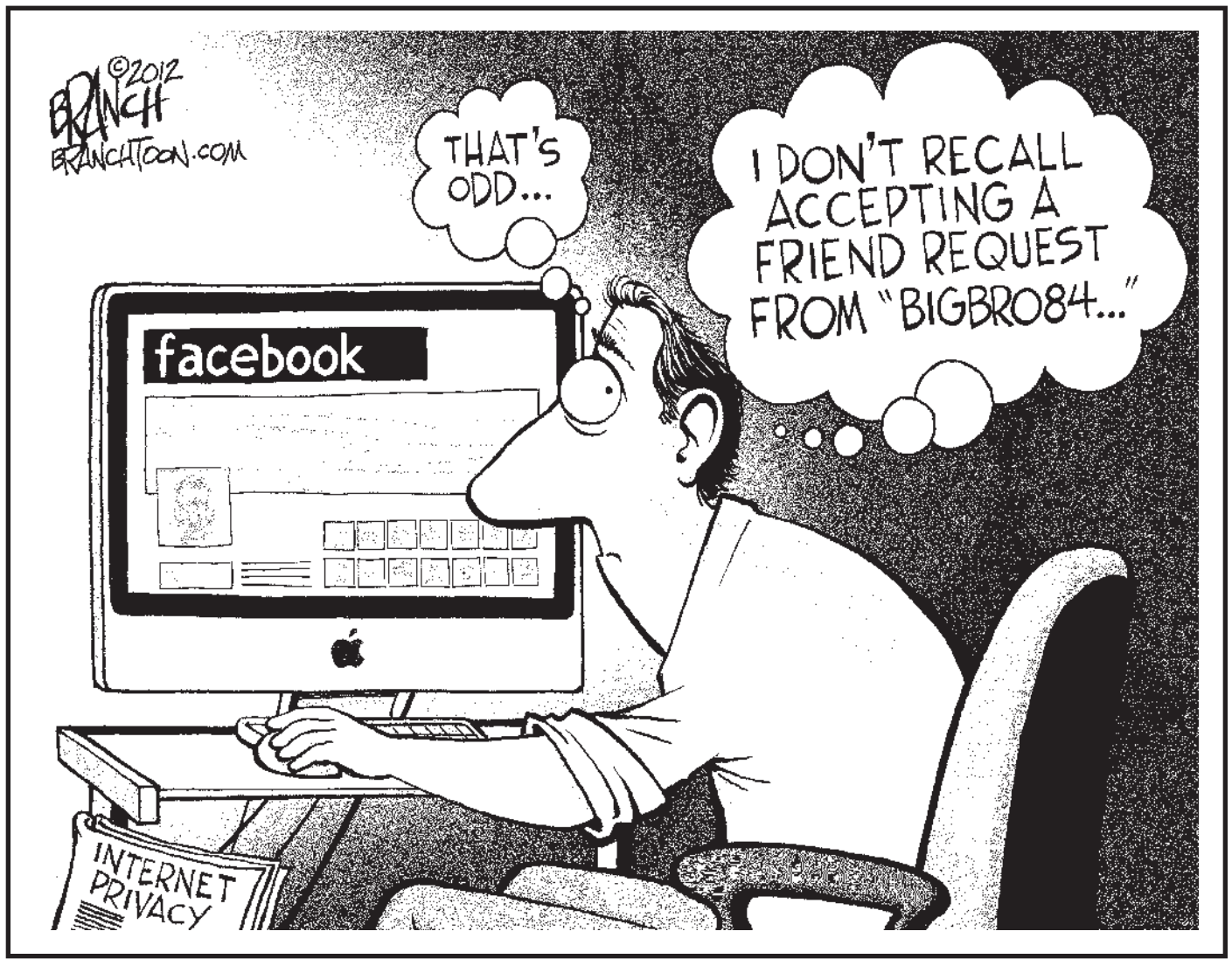


Pinadesen familia

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Megai man-e'ensinahyau gi halom aplahcha' na sisomyan chinatsaga. I patriatkan yan matriatkan familia pumadedese dinilug tituka' gi hechuran hinasson satbasion gi halom luñu ha'ilas. Sumen makat na mattiru gi halom mattiempun ekonomia ha fafana' i dos saina.

Lamegai esta man-machule'guan nu i gima' familia ni bañku, Mas este na pinadese u inatisa ni baban tiempu. Kontodu sasyan familia 'sino fiñkas u faliñgu gi halom mattiron iran chinatsaga. Makat na fina'pos na biahe para megai na tautau-ta.

Fuera de maribahan oran cho'chu', ileghu na konodu i otru asagua mana para gi checho'ña pot mahuchum i bisnis 'nai machochochu'.

Mattu i tiempu 'nai presisu, pot satbasionta, na ta atan fotmat hafa mauleg tachogue pot para ta reskatan maisa hit sin pattisipasion i man-sabiun i hegsu'.

Gi halom didog na rimulinon este na na chinatsaga, sige ta petsige sinparat inaligau para ta reskata machule' gima familia. Todu biradata mampos gueku i sineda'ta 'sino apenanas antau na satbasion. Dañkulu lokue' maliñgon inañgoghota gi man-sabiun i Hegsu' I Deni. Ni haf' umachogue, taya ayudu para 0 publiku gi satbasion presisu na kosas familia tat kumu guma'.

I mañan man-sabiun i Hegsu' I Deni mampos namatman sa' un' tiempu parehu na fina' yanu 'nai man-hihita manohge. Kau mampos kanifes i airen I Deni?

■■■

U fattu guihe na eskalera 'nai u guaha didog na diniskontentu ya u fañila' i binibun publiku. Ennau na guafe ti punu'un. Hafa para umasusede dispues seguruyu' na ti bonitu. Siempre u fan mahusga sin ditension i man-ma-elihe hafa na satbasion guaha para u ataha i miserable na lina'la' mayotmente. Debi u prepara siha umoppe i publiku.

■■■

Esta tana' sin fondu (bankrupt) i programan man-retirau. Pagu, ta akanteteha i MPLT para ta pega gi parehu estau estake todus tana' kosus enteru i gobietnamienton iya Marianas. Na ti guaha guine gi alacha man-offrese mas mauleg na ina'la' para i linahyan? Hafa na mampos ennau na ineffrese ñañgon kulan man-nina'ye chetnut udu i man-sabiu siha ni lumagnos ennau na offresimientu?

■■■

Yangin i tautau gai integridat ya malulog mauleg ni mañainaña, pues siempre u fan hassu kau magahet na hana' siña man-ayuda gi sumen te'ug na probleman iya Marianas pagu. Kau magahet na nahoñg ma-edukaña para u fana' asuntu siha ni man-seriosu? Yangin tat seguru na unna' siña, maulegña dalalagyu' ya tafananum suni, papaya, choda, kamuti yan fina' pinegsai. Mas dañkuloña benefisiomu ke un' atrebi hau fuma' un' tuñgu i ti un' tuñgu'. Hafa mohon?

■■■

Sige i amiguhu kumahat gi kanton tasi ume'e suette laiguan yan tiau. Dispues de tres oras, ha birague' tatte gi karetaña para u hanau para i gima. Buente ginacha' i prohimu. Ha offreseyu' dididi' aguas yan satmonetiyun. Na'magof sa' guaha para kelaguenhu yan dididi' ni para u dinilalag i sinahguan lateria (sitbesa)j. Hu faburese chupa yan fina' maneska.

■■■

I tautau ni inadite seriosu na chetnot ya ma-atmite gi hospitat pot piligru estauña, makat na gotpe parehu ha' para i malañgu yan familia.

See PINADESEN on Next Page

Can one person with courage become a majority?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The above question also begs another question: Can a majority of people become a minority? When we consider these questions then we begin to realize what has happened to us. Have we become too passive, too complacent, too divided, too fearful, too isolated to begin solving the multitude of problems facing us?

Today we have become economically bankrupt, and I might add that some of us have become morally bankrupt as well. Let's discuss if there is any way out of this morose pit of gloom that we have fallen into.

I have just finished reading a fascinating book titled *Get Up, Stand Up* by Bruce E. Levine. Because the situation in the United States is very similar to what we have in the CNMI, many of the suggestions that Dr. Levine offers apply to us as well. Dr. Levine states that too many of us have lost faith that our voices can make a difference. Somewhere and somehow we have lost our fighting spirit to demand change. We seem to have acquiesced to others our wishes for improvement.

When and how did we lose our voices? Has "learned helplessness" taken hold of us? How did we ever allow our institutions to become bankrupt? Can they still be saved? I strongly state that they can if we wake up and demand that they be fixed.

Dr. Levine goes on to state that without realizing it, many of us have lost our individual self-respect. We believe that we are not worthy of power and utilizing power wisely. As a result we unconsciously accept our role as being a subject of power. Without collective self-confidence, we do not believe that we can succeed in wresting power away from our leaders. I hastily remind all of us—our leaders are elected and subject to our wishes when the time to vote comes.

One of the ways to regain our feeling of power is to engage in more spirited debates. A few weeks ago, Delegate Kilili Sablan held a public forum to listen to our problems and hopefully find solutions together. It was a poor turnout of only a few of us. We should have taken the opportunity to attend and speak out our concerns whether we agree with the delegate or not.

Are many of us attending the pension fund's hearings? What excuses do we have for letting this happen? How vocal are we there? Are we buttonholing our lawmakers to jump into the fray and act decisively? Why are we allowing $500-plus-an-hour attorneys from off island who know little about the situation to bleed the already depleted Retirement Fund? Aren't there attorneys on island who know as much as they do and at a much lower rate? Think about it.

Too many of us think that our elected leaders can solve the problems that beset us today. But why do we think like this? What outstanding work did they do before they ran for office that tells us that? What was their background in the community? Did they own and operate businesses or were they leaders in whatever work they did? Isn't it a fact that they had enough nerve and egomaniacal pride to run for office? Why is it that after so many years of them not being non-outstanding members of the community, all of a sudden, we become awed of them after we elect them as our representatives? What magic did they weave?

Remember, most of our leaders were not leaders until we elevated them to that position. We never tested them before we gave them the power to control our lives. As a result we have gradually "learned helplessness," which means believing that no matter what we do or do not do, we cannot change our course or direction.

In researching thoughts for this theme, I came across a lot of people who singlehandedly have become a majority of one. Let me cite several:

1. Sally Katachpole, a 22-year-old nanny holding down two jobs, learned that Bank of America was going to charge a $5 monthly fee for the use of a personal debit card. Through her efforts of obtaining over 300,000 signatures on a petition, Bank of American stopped the practice.

2. Ali Ferzat, 60, spent years drawing insightful cartoons. When the rulers of Syria became angry at his cartoons poking fun at them, they beat him brutally and broke both his hands to stop his cartoons. Ferzart wasn't intimidated. His hands have healed and he is back at drawing sharp, vivid observations on this people's plight.

3. When Egyptian soldiers humiliated Samira Ibrahim, 25 years old, by forcing her to submit to a "virginity test," she fought back and is suing the military. In December a civilian judge ruled the humiliating practice illegal.

4. Maryan Durani, who lives in Afghanistan, has just been awarded the U.S. State Department's annual International Women of Courage award. Ms. Durani refuses to be silenced by the Taliban on her radio broadcasts. Thought targeted many times, by the Taliban, she bravely continues her fight.

5. Manal al-Sharif is called Saudi Arabia's road warrior. Her country doesn't allow women to drive on the streets. Last spring, Ms. Al-Sharif, 32, a divorced mother of two, decided to take on the

See PERSON on Next Page

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not the end of the road

Several articles have been printed in the local newspapers about Article 12. More recently, the public learned of the Senate's rejection of Legislative Initiative 17-10. That legislative initiative would have enabled voters to decide what to do with Article 12.

It is very unfortunate that the senators elected by the people to represent the people saw it fit to deprive the voters of deciding for themselves how they feel about Article 12.

We, the Citizens for Change to Article 12, do not see why the senators do not want the public to make the decision. Are they saying that the voters are not educated? Not capable of deciding?

The senators spoke about protecting the future generations. How is this? Our society consists of many different races. Look around and you will see non-Chamorro/Carolinian last names that indicate marriage to non-NMDs.

Yes, land is limited and the CNMI is a very, very small place. We do not see that Article 12 is the vehicle that can save land for future generations. In just a very short time (less than 25 years), our society has changed. We are a true melting pot of different races. Article 12 limits NMD to 25 percent blood quantum. There are people now that are 25 percent and the possibility of marrying a non-NMD is very high. Their children would be the great- or great-grandchildren of NMDs and will no longer qualify to own land fee simple. So how is Article 12 a protection? Or is it a protection for a select group of people in the CNMI?

There is talk about relaxing the 25 percent blood quantum and allowing for even the slightest blood or lineage to determine who is NMD. How is this to be done? Who is going to monitor this? What test will be required as proof?

A better way, a fair way to everyone and certainly clean, is to do away with Article 12. We realize that we all have different values. There will be people who will sell their land no matter what as is being done under a 55-year lease. Fifty-five years is a long time. It is two generations. Can we predict the future? No, we can't. We can, however, make sensible decisions that will have a positive impact on future generations. Let's give them the best opportunities for success in our ever changing world.

The Citizens for Change to Article 12 continues its petition for a change to Article 12. The petition is a popular initiative movement. It involves the people directly in the process of what we should do with Article 12. The failure of the legislative initiative is not the end of the road. We urge everyone to sign the petition to express your voice.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

What's the Senate afraid of?

What a travesty that the Senate killed the Article 12 initiative. The economy here suffers and will continue to suffer because there is no cash flow to the islands. Investment in the islands is critical to building a good economy, but major investors will not consider investing here. Would you build a $20 million structure, for instance, knowing that in 55 years, you will either have to give it up or pay for it again to someone with his hand out, who can basically blackmail you into either paying or walking away from your investment? And by then, that same property will be owned by 20 people, all with their hands out.

A good economy is based on good cash flow. Banks here charge prohibitive interest rates, and perhaps they have to. Banks in the States are charging home loans of 4.25 percent and less. But if you want to get those low rates, you have to allow money to come in. U.S. banks aren't lending on leases but with an investor-friendly climate, they will.

No matter what MVA says, this is not a business-friendly environment. It is time to stop treating NMDs like children. Let them sell their land if they like. No one will force them to sell. Or allow the kind of system of Hawaii, by which an owner can sell fee simple or lease at their discretion.

Many current legislators seem to think that legalizing marijuana or building casinos will be the answer, without considering what kind of people those kinds of activities would attract. There are already too many people here addicted to gambling who cannot pay their bills because of it. Look around at what the government has done for you so far. Get rid of these guys with their stale ideas and their inability to see the real economic problems. We need to attract professional investors with good business plans to the islands, not potheads and losers.

Let the voters decide. Let them sell or lease as they like. But for the sake of building a decent economy here, by which residents can benefit, put the initiative on the ballot and let it pass. What is the Senate afraid of? Better living conditions on the islands? Better job opportunities? More money for everyone?

Richard Nigh
As Matuis, Saipan

Setting the stage

The music is what happens when it is played. In the same light, the poetry is what happens when it is read. In Mr. Segundo Castro's point of reference, it was he who framed the argument, "If it ain't broken, don't fix it." Conversely, it was Mr. Gregorio Sablan that triggered the invitation, challenging the indigenous voters of the NMI by invoking the offer to send a new delegate to the U.S. Congress, hence, as a way of affirming who is the best to serve the people of the CNMI government and its citizens, thus framing the argument, "iIf it ain't broken, break it."

What Mr. Castro is saying is the complete opposite of what Mr. Gregorio Sablan disclosed in a public forum. As a stakeholder and an indigenous son of these islands, all these messages of conflicting interests in my view are urges to the indigenous voters of the NMI that indeed we need to pay attention for a change in the representation capacity in this year's selection of the CNMI delegate to Congress. Hence, the thought of "if it ain't broken, break it" was apropos and consistently congruent with what Delegate Gregorio Sablan wants the indigenous voters of these islands to bear in mind. Bring on the discussions making the case to send the best delegate to Congress. We have about five months to think about it.

So, Mr. Castro is anchoring a thought from an assertion made by Mr. Jose Cruz (Pinchang) suggesting the bleaching, wiping out, and desolation of the indigenous people of the NMI. And based on this belief, Mr. Castro assuredly predicted the indigenous people of these islands should just graciously accept this epiphenomenon because there is nothing that could be done to reverse it. He suggested the indigenous population is not the only people who have a stake in the CNMI. I just hope that Mr. Gregorio Sablan is not agreeing to this kind of message on behalf of the indigenous people of these islands. This conflict of visions and contending interests ignite fuel in the already murky situations addressing important practical issues to be confronted, crusades to be launched, and values to be defended at all costs by the indigenous people of these islands.

The only place on this earth where the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people exist is in the Mariana Islands. The next delegate to Congress for the CNMI government and its citizens should bear this in mind. Is it too radical for an indigenous person to say that you are a Chamorro or Carolinian, and stand with pride as a people by marking your brand to the rest of the world? Is it wrong for the indigenous people to have these islands as their only sanctuary and homeland where they could plant their markers of existence? The islands in the CNMI are small in comparison with the massive U.S. mainland, and the indigenous people living on them are only a few thousand. First, one must find his or her roots, and when that is consciously felt in the spine, you would know the meaning of being an indigenous Chamorro or Carolinian. All my ancestors are resting peacefully in sacred places, and I would keep the promise that I too would follow in the same footsteps. Therefore, the indigenous people of these islands is an issue. If the CW issues are taking the front line, this is a warning to the next delegate to Congress. In the last four years, what public policies in the U.S. Congress has our delegate championed and advocated to keeping these islands as Chamorro and Carolinian as they could be? Let the discussions on issues like these run their course in the interest of luring in more thoughts. Mr. Editor, would you agree that the stage has started and this is good for your readers?

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Active employees are grossly underrepresented on Chapter 11 creditors committee

Paul Joyce is the only active employee on the Chapter 11 Creditors Committee. There are seven total; six are current retirees.

The Fund has conflicting obligations to the retirees it must pay and to active members whose contributions it is duty-bound to protect. It cannot sacrifice one class of members to serve the other.

However, with only one member representing the active employees, it appears that they are in the position to do just that. According to 2009 actuarial report numbers, there are 2,996 active members versus 2,940 existing retirees. According to the Status of the Fund Report released in March 2012, there is roughly $113 million encumbered by a court order reserved for active employee contributions, and $143 million left in the Fund for payment to existing retirees.

The active employees are grossly misrepresented on the creditors committee.

Another issue: the creditors committee has the right to have an attorney represent them. However, with conflicting interests, how is one attorney supposed to represent all?

If you are an active employee reading this, please sign one of the petitions circulating urging the court to preserve your right to pull your money out of the fund.

Active Members Unite is a group formed to help you make your voice heard. Next meeting is May 22, 6:30pm. Tell 5 friends.

Mark Staal
As Matuis, Saipan

PERSON

From Page 10

issue by posting on YouTube a video of herself driving the Saudi streets. As a result of her bravery, more and more women in Saudi Arabia are now taking to openly driving children to schools and doing grocery shopping where before they were afraid.

6. In India, HIV has long been considered an outcast disease. But Anjali Gopaln has become the champion of the outcast. Through compassionate and deep love she is slowly changing the thinking of her people. As a result more medical attention is now being given to these unfortunate sick people. Had she not stepped forward and showed love and compassion, how sad to think of these people left alone to die.

These are only a few of the many individual people who are making up a majority. To learn more of how any of us can become a majority check out the new web page called Change org. Here you will read the stories of many others who have joined in the fight to make a difference. Learn how any of us can become a majority. All it takes is courage and discipline!

Change.org empowers us to create real change in our community. Every day, across the world, people like us start campaigns on Change.org_to fight for issues they care about—and the Change.org team works to mobilize people to help them win. Change.org has created a system that will definitely make signing petitions easy and effective. This group will provide the best advocacy tools in the world to us—for free. Check it out.

Forgive me for preaching so much, but I see us slowly acquiescing our beliefs out of fear to others. Yet passions and problems are the fuel that form friendship and community. Integrity means taking actions in accordance with one's beliefs; one cannot have real self-respect without integrity. Let us re-examine our core values and beliefs.

To demand change, we must regain our self-respect and truly believe that anyone of us with a strong will can create a change for the better. We have become depressed but we can fight our way back. Let's try it. We have everything to gain and nothing more to lose. A closing word: It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to our friends.

So let's get up and stand up and demand our rights. Each one of us can become a majority. Have a great week!

PINADESEN

From Page 10

Piot ya ti seguru i mediku kau u fatinas i prohimu dispues de 24 oras. Man-daña hit gi un' banda gi hilu' tinayuyot na puede guaha adelantu gi sigiente dia para i malañguta.

Yangin presisu eksaminasion medikun espesialista, pues ma-atan manu mas chadeg na hospitat; kau Filipinas pat Hawaii.

Guaha otru chinatsaga 'nai debi uma-akompaña i malañgu: taya esta salape' para apas neñkanu' i prohimu. Debi i familia u prebeniye este na nesessidat.

'Nai felis hinanau i malañgu, huñgan siña manamagoñg i chetnotña. Lau ni ñgai'an 'nai u parehu yan i orihinat na kondision 'nai brarabugue'. Todu siempre kinalamten para mona ma-utut sin ditension.

■■■

Este i probleman korason hu soda' na gaige gi haga' lamegai na familia guine. Dos masusesede gi este na chetnot: I unu finanu'e hau gi hechuran pinadesen bulachon ulu, putin pechu yan chathinagoñg. I segundu, sentaya' señatña ya ayu ha' para un' padese 'nai poduñg hau. Este i segundu i mas na'mañau 'an inaminasa i tautau.

Ilegña i mediku na este na chetnot tai relasioña yan i klasen neñkanu' ni ta benefifisia. Gaige gi haga' familia ya solu manera ni para siña ta ataha i para ta tulaika sentadata ya tana' guaha eksisiu pot lumenos tres biahe gi semana.

Este lokue' i daibites, gaige este gi haga'. Repara sa' gigon ta gacha' 45 años, ta tutuhon man-mamadese entre senyomug 'sino masogsug. Piot ya duru un' fada' i fina' mames, asiga yan mantika. Siempre un' famadese mas ke 'nai unna' guaha dididi' inadahe.

Gi todu este, hagu ha' solamismu i kapitan batkomu. Todu disposison, gaige giya hagu kau un' mas homlu' 'sino malañgu.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

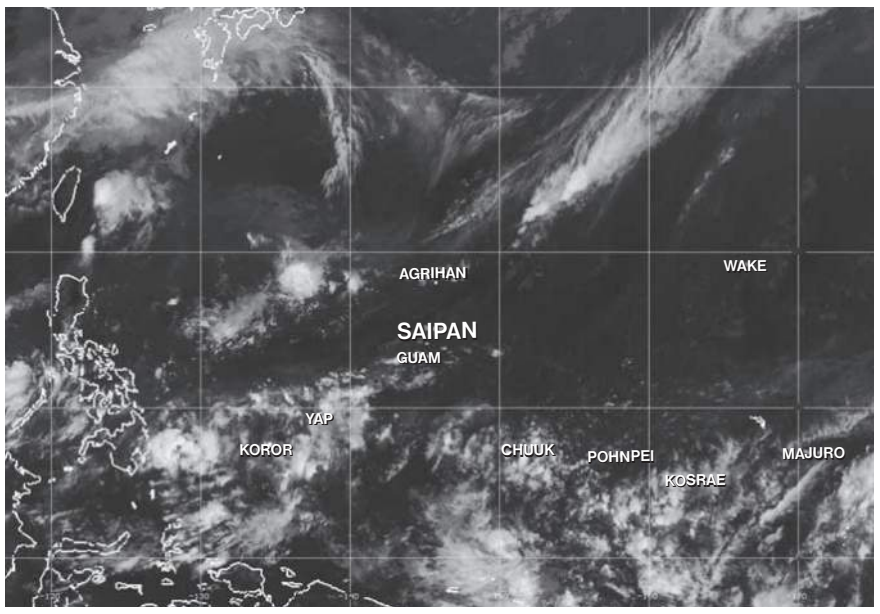
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲65	▼58
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼55
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼69
London	Showers	▲56	▼45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲59	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Osaka	Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Paris	Sunny	▲66	▼52
Pusan	Rain	▲67	▼60
Rome	Windy	▲68	▼53
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼56
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼49
Seoul	Rain	▲68	▼57
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼63
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front curves southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima at 25N157E to near Maug at 20N145E then continues a warm front to beyond 130E at 21N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. A monsoon trough heads southeastward from 9N130E to end at EQ147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near Koror and Yap or west of a line from EQ136E to 10N142E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Pohnpei but over Kosrae or south of a line from 8N147E to 4N159E to 7N166E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls or south of a line from 3N172E to 5N174E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:02 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
3:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:04 AM	1:15 PM
Tuesday	1:43 AM	2:04 PM
Wednesday	2:21 AM	2:51 PM
Thursday	2:58 AM	3:39 PM
Friday	3:36 AM	4:27 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

A successful start to SHRM's Workforce Readiness Initiative

The first group of participants in the Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative program completed a week of job preparation and warehousing skills in their efforts to find employment in today's tough job market. Eleven referrals from the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency wrapped up 40 hours of training during the week of April 16-20, with both warehousing classroom training and on-site observation, plus forklift training and testing to obtain their forklift operator certification.

"This first program can only be viewed as a success," Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM said. "WIA provided us with a good group of applicants and they did their part, showing up on time, showing interest and participating well. They received good solid training from knowledgeable and experienced instructors from the business community. We have already placed five of the trainees and have interviews on-going to place the remainder."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row from left, Delvin H. Manahane and Gary Lee Benavente. Middle row from left, Anthony Tenorio, Aldebert Santos, Ronald LG. Ealey, Wensiner Namelo, Robert R. Johnathan, program manager Frank Gibson, and CTSI Logistics general manager Joven Cruz. Top row from left, Kintirino Elieisar, Mark Kukkun, Donald L. Norita, OSHA/forklift instructor David Dobey, and Benji Yoromad.

The first Initiative program participants were Gary Lee Benavente, Ronald LG. Ealey, Kintirino Elieisar, Robert R. Johnathan, Mark Kukkun, Delvin H. Manahane, Wensiner Namelo, Donald L. Norita, Aldebert Santos, Anthony Tenorio and Benji Yoromad.

The first program included job preparation classes on job applications and resumes, job interviews, customer service, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided on OSHA requirements, Basic Warehousing Operations, Basic Warehousing Maintenance and Forklift Operation, culminating in hands-on forklift operation and certification.

Gibson said that the success of the first program was also due to the professional skills and the interest of the instructors. "I would like to thank the SHRM members, Ms. Polly DLG Masga from PIC, Mr. Jim Arenovsky from Delta Management, Ms. Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings and Ms. Josephine Mesta from the Hyatt Regency Saipan, who worked with the participants to prepare them for employment. Special thanks is owed to Mr. Joven Cruz from CTSI Logistics for the warehousing training and the use of their warehouse area as a training venue, and Mr. David Dobey, Professional Training Technology Inc., from Guam, for the OSHA and forklift training and certification. Mr. Eric Plinske of StayWell Insurance and Mr. Max Kretzers, D&Q Co./Tan Holdings volunteered their time to assist with mock job interviews. I appreciate the business community's willing assistance."

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to the CNMI SHRM by the US Department of the Interior through the CNMI Department of Commerce in support of the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program. This Initiative to benefit the community started on April 16 with a one-week warehouseman training program and will continue on May 29 with a second one-week program for wait staff. The second program will run Tuesday through Saturday due to the Memorial Day holiday on May 28.

SHRM's role in administering this grant through its Workforce Readiness Initiative will be to facilitate the preparation of unemployed U.S. qualified workers through job preparation and skills training to be better qualified to enter the CNMI job market. The Initiative will consist of a series of one-week pre-placement training programs with a combination of general employee enhancement and job specific skills in employment areas where SHRM-Member companies and other community businesses have indicated a need for replacement or additional staff.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Qualified individuals who are registered with WIA or the DOL Employment Services should contact those offices and let them know of their interest. Those who are not registered and are interested in joining one of the Initiative programs should immediately register with WIA and express their interest. All interested candidates should sign up with WIA to allow them to help employers with funding of Initiative graduates. Interested individuals can also contact Gibson, the Workforce Readiness Initiative manager by e-mail at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

Although the Initiative does not guarantee a job for every participant, it will make every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have already committed to accepting Initiative graduates and the Initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM-member companies and other employers. Companies interested in considering Initiative graduates can also contact Gibson at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of $102,000 under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a Sub-grant award from the CNMI Department of Commerce. ***(SHRM)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-GOV-075

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 29, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"DIVERT ACTIVITIES ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ADVISORY CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE MILITARY INTEGRATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. TOM LINDEN, MIMC COORDINATOR AT **mio@gov.mp** NO LATER THAN **3:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MAY 16, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ESTHER FLEMING
GRANT ADMINSTRATOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-066

SUBMISSION DATE : JUNE 04, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A POLICE CRUISER (SEDAN) PACKAGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DIRECTOR GREGORY F. CASTRO AT (670) 664-9088 OR ALINA CABRERA AT (670) 664-9122.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, ***LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-067 (A)(B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE : JUNE 04, 2012 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) POLICE PASSENGER VANS (A-SAIPAN AND B- ROTA) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DIRECTOR GREGORY F. CASTRO AT (670) 664-9088 OR ALINA CABRERA AT (670) 664-9122.

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/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-068 (A)(B)

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 04, 2012 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TRAILERS (A-OP/CR AND B-DUI/IMPAIRED DRIVING) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DIRECTOR GREGORY F. CASTRO AT (670) 664-9088 OR ALINA CABRERA AT (670) 664-9122.

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/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-069

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 04, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 2012 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (DOUBLE CAB) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DIRECTOR GREGORY F. CASTRO AT (670) 664-9088 OR ALINA CABRERA AT (670) 664-9122.

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/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

United States District Court for the
Northern Mariana Islands,
Bankruptcy Division

NORTHERN MARIANNA ISLANDS
RETIREMENT FUND

Bankruptcy Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the United States Trustee's Motion to Dismiss Case ("motion") is set for hearing on June 1, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. The motion sets forth the grounds regarding why the United States Trustee has determined that the Debtor is ineligible to be a chapter 11 debtor, and accordingly, has requested that the case be dismissed. The full contents of the motion is on file with the Court, and a copy can be obtained from the Court. Any response or opposition to the motion must be filed with the Court on or before May 18, 2012 (14 days before the hearing) at: U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands , 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 500687, Saipan, MP 96950 USA
If you mail your response to the Court, you must mail it early enough so the Court will receive it on or before the deadline stated above. The Court may disregard any response filed untimely. You must also mail or transmit a copy of any response or opposition to the moving party at: Office of the United States Trustee, Attn: Curtis Ching, Asst. U.S. Trustee, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 602, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.
If you fail to file a response to this motion within such time period, the Court may treat such failure as a waiver of your right to oppose the motion and may grant the requested relief.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii May 9, 2012,

Terri H. Didion,
Trial Attorney for U.S. Trustee

Island Snapshots

NMC

HILUX TRUCK SHOW

The second-place 4x4 Toyota Hilux winner is showcased during the Hilux Truck Show during the recently held NMC Charter Day. This was one of three 4x4 Hiluxes that participated in the show, in addition to 17 4x2 Hiluxes for a total of 20 contestants.

NMC

Dan Worswick displays his new Apple iPad 2 and prize package from Microl Toyota and IP&E. Worswick is the winner of the 4x4 division of the recently held Hilux Truck Show.

NMC

Shown is a Toyota Hilux owned by Kaz Lizama of Servitek Auto Shop. The Hilux was eventually crowned second-place in the 4x2 division of the Hilux Truck Show.

NMC

Showcased is a 4x4 Toyota Hilux owned by Dan Worswick. The Hilux was eventually crowned the winner of the Hilux Truck Show's 4x4 division hosted during the NMC Charter Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOB WELL DONE!

Alana Dela Cruz Takasi, daughter of Cynthia Dela Cruz and Marciano Takasi, graduated valedictorian from Tinian High School last year. She has now graduated valedictorian from the Air Force Medical Laboratory Technician School in San Antonio, Texas. Alana now moves on to advanced training at Travis Air Force Base, California.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations Rudy S. Kaipat Jr. on receiving your first Holy Communion! Many blessings from the family.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Mr. D (Daddy), Will DeWitt! You're a wonderful daddy and an awesome teacher. Have a wonderful and blessed day. Greetings come from Emily, Abby, James, Lois, and the Manta Band.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy Mother's Day to the best mom in the whole wide world, Zenaida Margo Lizama Santos! Happy Nana Day *yan en guiya hao. guini as si* Dad, Craig,Tinie, Nisha, Boboy, Kika, Sus, Shawn, Esper, SJ *yan* si Kimani Jaeri.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Luis Hernandez Jr., who is celebrating his special day today, May 14, 2012! You're older today than yesterday but younger than tomorrow, Happy birthday and God bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

Business

Is Europe a safe place to buy? Not exactly

NEW YORK (AP)—It often pays to zig when everybody else zags. If you were brave enough to put cash into the stock market three years ago—and very few small investors were—you've doubled your money.

European stocks have lost about 15 percent since mid-March. Renewed worries about the region's long-running debt crisis have rattled markets. So it might look like a chance to buy cheap.

The trouble, money managers say, is that nobody knows when the crisis there will end. Most of them predict it will get worse, perhaps far worse, before it gets better.

"You can't pick the bottom," says Martin Jansen, lead manager for international equities at ING Investment Management U.S. "And if things get worse in Europe, today's cheap won't look so cheap anymore."

To hear Jansen and other money managers tell it, a rule for shopping applies for investing: Not everything that goes on sale is a bargain.

If Greece drops out of the 17-country euro currency group this year, as analysts worry it will, it could spread havoc throughout the financial system. And Europe's underlying problems—slumping economies, deep debt burdens and ever-rising interest rates—could take years to fix.

That doesn't mean it's time to sell everything connected to Europe. The best approach, fund managers say, is to divide the continent into struggling countries and stronger ones.

Investors who take this approach keep clear of Greek banks but favor German giants. All European markets could get hammered in a panic, but stocks in the stronger countries stand a better chance of bouncing back months, or maybe years, later.

"Put it this way: Are European markets a screaming buy?" Jansen says. "No, right now it's time to be cautious, time to be selective."

Can Singapore serve as economic model for NKorea?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Less than two weeks after being punished with new U.N. sanctions, North Korea has sent its ceremonial head of state and two top economic officials to Singapore and Indonesia on a trip that appears aimed at drumming up outside investment.

Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of North Korea's parliament, arrived in Singapore on Friday for his first reported trip overseas since late leader Kim Jong Il's December death. He is to head Sunday to Indonesia with two senior economic officials, according to North Korean state media. Kim, no relation to Kim Jong Il and current leader Kim Jong Un, often represents North Korea abroad.

The weeklong journey comes on the heels of new U.N. sanctions imposed on North Korea for launching a long-range rocket last month in defiance of Security Council resolutions banning it from nuclear or ballistic missile activity. North Korea insists the launch was an attempt to send a satellite into space.

Washington suspended an agreement to provide North Korea with food aid, and the North could face more punishment if it follows the launch with an atomic test as it did in 2006 and 2009.

Even as it has risked punishment by developing missiles, North Korea also has focused since 2009 on improving its economy by developing light industry, drawing foreign investment and expanding trade.

With ties remaining tense with South Korea, North Korea is looking elsewhere to build economic partnerships.

Singaporean entrepreneurs already are supplying the well-to-do in Pyongyang with everything from Heineken beer to Hello Kitty, and have introduced some locals to hamburgers, fried chicken and Belgian waffles.

North Korea is looking to diversify its trade, import natural resources and export consumer goods with Southeast Asia's help.

Singapore offers an attractive model for attracting direct foreign investment, while resource-rich Indonesia could give pointers on how to make money from minerals, said Cho Bong-hyun, a research fellow at the IBK Economic Research Institute in Seoul.

The North Koreans may also use the trip to Singapore to learn how to develop a successful growth model that does not threaten the political power structure, said Andray Abrahamian, executive director of Choson Exchange, a Singapore-based nonprofit group that has provided business and legal training for about 200 young North Korean government officials and students.

"Singapore's development trajectory has been attractive to a number of countries who are interested in maintaining political stability to manage rapid economic growth," he said.

Was the euro born too fast?

Seventeen countries in the European Union (EU) share a single currency that critics say has helped fuel Europe's current financial crisis.

Key dates in the development of the euro

1978 European Monetary System (EMS) created to stabilize currency exchange rates within the 12 nations of the European Community (EC)

1989 Berlin Wall falls; later, former Soviet nations in Eastern Europe become independent; integration of Europe begins

1992 EC nations sign Maastricht Treaty that creates the European Union, sets rules for a single currency and criteria for a member state to adopt it

1995 Madrid European Council creates plan for shift to single currency; agrees on the name 'euro'

1998 European Central Bank created; maintains price stability in eurozone countries

1999 Euro adopted as virtual currency (banking, electronic transfers) by 11 nations; at least one does not meet financial criteria

2002 Euro currency notes and coins put in circulation; largest monetary changeover in history; a week later, more than half of all cash transactions in eurozone are in euros

2007- present European sovereign debt crisis makes it difficult or impossible for some Eurozone nations to re-finance their government debt without the aid of

2008 Financial markets refer to heavily indebted Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain as PIGS; some fear break up of eurozone

2010 EU agrees to help to Eurozone countries in order to protect financial stability of Europe

2012 Greek government in turmoil after voters reject austerity plan imposed by EU in exchange for bailout

1980 1990 2000 2010

Noteable euro values against U.S. dollar since 1999

Jan. 4, 1999	Jan. 14, 2002	July 14, 2008	May 10, 2012
$1.18	$0.81	$1.59	$1.30

Critera to join eurozone

- Country must have a debt ratio of less than 60% of GDP
- Low inflation; interest rates close to the EU average

The eurozone

Countries using the euro by year they adopted currency

1999 Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland (Greece, Sweden fail to meet criteria); **2001** Greece; **2007** Slovenia; **2008** Cyprus, Malta; **2009** Slovakia; **2011** Estonia

Source: European Union, BBC Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell © 2012 MCT

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-017

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than June 30, 2012. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2013.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 29, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 14, 2012 to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CPA-IFB-002-12

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA") calls for bids to furnish one new 2012 4X4, V-6, gas, SUV vehicle.

1. The bid specifications contained in the Vehicle Bid Form provide in detail the CPA's requirements for the vehicle. Vehicle Bid Forms are available at the CPA Administrative Office, second floor of the Arrival Terminal, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950. You may contact telephone number 237-6500 for assistance.
2. Each bid shall be made on the Vehicle Bid Form furnished by the CPA.
3. The bid amount shall include the furnishing of all labor, supervision, equipment, supplies, transportation, taxes, fees, and all other items necessary to perform the work and services requested.
4. Bid documents must be received in a sealed envelope clearly labeled with "VEHICLE BID" and the name of the Bidder printed on the outside of the envelope. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission or by email will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline specified below shall be returned to the bidder unopened.
5. Bids shall be submitted at the CPA Administration Office located at the Saipan International Airport, second floor of the Arrival Terminal, no later than 2:00p.m. on May 23rd, 2012.
6. Bids will be publicly opened on May 29th, 2012 at the hour of 10:00a.m. in the Executive Director's conference room, second floor of the Arrival Terminal, Saipan International Airport, and there read aloud and recorded. All interested bidders are invited to attend.
7. The successful bidder will be required to furnish vehicle meeting the Bid Specifications within 60 days of receipt of payment from the CPA.
8. This acquisition is funded from a 2009 Ports Security Grant from Homeland Security and FEMA.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. Garapan Annex RFP
- b. Personnel Matters
- c. Update on Thirty-Two (32) former RD Properties
- d. QAP 2012
- e. REO's for Sale (003 D 16, 003 D 22, 001 C 57)
- f. Multifamily Renewal
- g. CDBG/CDBG-R Updates
- h. ESG Updates
- i. Fiscal RFP

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. OTHER MATTERS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

Nation

Rescued girl tells sister: 'Now we can go home'

GUNTOWN, Miss. (AP)—Days of grueling searches for two young girls and the kidnapper who killed their mother and sister led to the kind of terrain that favors the hunted—high hardwoods and deep ravines near a red-brick church perched on a hill.

Specially trained officers had come up empty-handed for days but were following another lead Thursday evening after Adam Mayes was put on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List. Dozens of tips turned up nothing. This latest lead officers to the woods near Zion Hill Baptist Church, just a couple of miles from Mayes' rented mobile home in Guntown, where 31-year-old Jo Ann Bain and her 14-year-old daughter, Adrienne, had been buried in a shallow grave.

The officers had searched the church and later split up and set out down two old logging roads leading deep into the forest. Just 60 yards down, Mississippi Highway Patrol Master Sgt. Steve Crawford saw a little girl's head in the dirt. Within inches, another child. A few more inches, the man who proved so elusive.

A search that dragged on for days ended in seconds.

"Let's see your hands," the officers shouted.

Mayes pushed himself up to his knees, pulled out a 9 mm pistol and shot himself in the head. He didn't utter a word, and died a couple hours later at hospital.

AP

This combo of file photos provided by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety shows Alexandria Bain, 12, left, and Kyliyah Bain, 8.

Twelve-year-old Alexandria Bain and 8-year-old Kyliyah sat up, subdued, within reach of Mayes' body. Crawford said they didn't cry, instead looking almost relieved.

"Now we can go home," Lt. Lee Ellington heard the older girl tell her little sister. Ellington was part of a team from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Home was a place the girls hadn't seen since April 27, when Mayes, a friend they considered an uncle, killed Jo Ann and Adrienne Bain in the garage of their home in Whiteville, Tenn., according to police.

Mayes, a friend of Jo Ann's husband, Gary, had gone to the house the night before to help the family pack for a move to Arizona. Instead, police say he killed the mother and daughter, packed their corpses into a car, grabbed the younger girls and headed south with his wife to the mobile home in Guntown. Authorities have not said how they were killed or what time it may have happened.

Police say Gary Bain told them his wife and daughters were asleep when he went to bed at midnight and were gone when he woke the next day, but he figured the girls went to school and Jo Ann had gone somewhere, too. But she didn't answer her phone that day, and the girls never got off the school bus that afternoon.

At 8 p.m., he called the Hardeman County Sherriff's Office to report them missing. Police interviewed Mayes. Even Mayes admits to investigators on April 29 that he was the last one to see Jo Ann and the girls, but police said they had no evidence of a crime. And it first, it wasn't known if Jo Ann had willingly left and taken the kids with her.

On April 30, Jo Ann Bain's SUV was found abandoned on a country road in Tennessee. That same day, Adam Mayes was seen at a market in Mississippi with his usual long hair chopped off. He told another customer it will be cooler in the hot, brutal Southern summer; investigators would later warn he may have cut the girls' hair to disguise them, too.

Hardeman County Sheriff John Doolen said two days later that Mayes is a person of interest in the case but that there are no signs of foul play—not yet.

On May 4, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation issued an endangered child alert, pleading for the public's help in finding the family. At first, investigators still said they have no evidence of a crime.

However, according to police documents, Mayes' wife, Teresa admitted her involvement around the same time. The documents show Teresa Mayes told investigators she saw Adam Mayes kill the mother and daughter in the garage of their home so he could abduct the younger children. Their bodies were loaded into a car, along with Adam Mayes, Alexandria and Kyliyah, and Teresa Mayes drove everyone some two hours to the mobile home in Guntown. Teresa Mayes also tells authorities she saw her husband digging a hole in the backyard.

On May 5, the Mississippi Highway Patrol issued an amber alert for the children in that state, warning that Mayes is armed and dangerous. That same day, investigators say two bodies are found buried in the Mayes' backyard. They are badly decomposed and are not identified as Jo Ann and Adrienne Bain until two days later.

By May 8, Adam Mayes' wife and his mother have been arraigned on charges of helping with the crimes, but there was still no trace of the two sisters. The girls told their rescuers they had gone three days without any food or water, so it's possible that's about the time they began hiding out in the woods, an area filled with old deer hunting shelters. Some investigators believe they were in the woods even longer before being found late Thursday, exhausted, dehydrated and itching with poison ivy.

3 Boston U. students killed in New Zealand crash

BOSTON (AP)—With graduation approaching, a time for celebration turned somber at Boston University on Saturday as students who were packing up at the end of the school year learned that three classmates studying in New Zealand were killed when their minivan crashed during a weekend trip.

At least five other students were injured in the accident early Saturday, including one who was in critical condition.

Boston University spokesman Colin Riley said those killed in the accident were Daniela Lekhno, 20, of Manalapan, N.J.; Austin Brashears, 21, of Huntington Beach, Calif.; and Roch Jauberty, 21, whose parents live in Paris.

The students were traveling in a minivan near the North Island vacation town of Taupo when the van drifted to the side of the road and then rolled when the driver tried to correct course, New Zealand police said.

Three of the students died at the scene, police said. Another woman was in critical condition at a hospital, while at least four other students suffered moderate injuries.

Another BU student, Margaret Theriault, was airlifted from the crash site to a hospital in Taupo and was in critical condition, the university said.

AP

Boston University students including Tori Pinheiro, left, of New Bedford, Mass., and Austin Brashears' girlfriend, holds a candlelight vigil on Marsh Plaza at Boston University, Saturday, May 12, 2012, for three students studying in New Zealand who were killed when their minivan crashed during a weekend trip.

Efforts by The Associated Press to reach family members of Lekhno and Brashears were unsuccessful Saturday. A person who answered the phone at the home of Lekhno's family declined to comment, and a message left at a phone listing for Brashears' family wasn't immediately returned.

Brashears' mother, Julie, told The Boston Globe that he frequently posted new photos on Facebook documenting his adventures in New Zealand, including bungee-jumping off the Auckland Harbor Bridge on his birthday. She said he planned weekend outings for the study abroad group.

"Everyone called him the cruise director," she said. "He wanted to include everybody on the trips. He loved having an eclectic group of friends."

Student body president Howard Male, a friend of Brashears, said the Boston University students had posted Facebook updates in anticipation of the trip, saying they hoped to view scenery captured on film in the "Lord of the Rings" movies.

"They were all so excited to be able to go explore what many guidebooks ... have called some of the most beautiful places on the planet," Male said.

At the university, final exams ended Friday, and there were few outward signs of any socializing on Saturday morning. The student union was deserted. The main activity involved students in the dorms hauling out boxes and pushing rolling bins filled with their belongings to waiting moving trucks or their parents' cars as they scurried to meet a noon deadline to clear out.

Student Marcelle Richard, who was moving out after finishing her freshman year, said news of the other students' deaths was "really upsetting."

"They were abroad, and it's so sad that something has to happen when you are supposed to be experiencing one of the best times of your life," said Richard, 18.

Richard, of New Orleans, said the tragedy will not stop her from going abroad to study later in her college career.

"It's just like tragedies happen, and I don't want that to stop me from a good learning experience," she said.

Jordan Nunez, 22, a senior who is graduating next week, said the study abroad program is very popular among Boston University students. He estimates 25 percent to 30 percent of his friends traveled to foreign countries to study.

ACROSS THE NATION

Calif. FBI agent missing, possibly armed, suicidal

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department officials and other law enforcement personnel searched a rugged mountain area Saturday for an FBI agent who had not been seen for more than 24 hours and was said to be despondent and possibly suicidal. Los Angeles-based Special Agent Stephen Ivens was last seen by family members Thursday evening, KABC-TV reported. He left his Burbank home the next morning on foot and hasn't been seen since, FBI officials said at a news conference. Ivens was distraught and authorities fear he may have harmed himself, according to KABC-TV. Officials did not say why Ivens was distraught.

4 killed, 1 injured in Kansas plane crash

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A small airplane that crashed in southeast Kansas was carrying five people with connections to Oral Roberts University to a Christian youth rally in Iowa, a friend of three of the victims said Saturday. The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that four of the passengers died in Friday's crash and one was badly injured. The National Transportation Safety Board said the twin-engine Cessna 401 went down around 4:30 p.m. Friday northwest of Chanute, Kan. NTSB spokesman Peter Knudson said the eight-seat plane caught fire after the crash.

GOP: Economy tops gay marriage as campaign issue

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama delighted his liberal base by coming down on the side of gay marriage, but he cheered the opposition, too. Republican activists now want to use Obama's stance on the issue—public opinion is about evenly split—to paint the president as a flip-flopper and to boost Mitt Romney's image in the eyes of conservatives who are still warming to him. Yet, across the Republican Party, from leaders to activists interviewed since Obama's announcement, there's been wide agreement to use the gay marriage issue selectively—in battleground states that have banned gay marriage, for example- and keep the GOP's national political focus on Obama's stewardship of the economy.

World

In Egypt turmoil, thieves hunt pharaonic treasures

CAIRO (AP)—Taking advantage of Egypt's political upheaval, thieves have gone on a treasure hunt with a spree of illegal digging, preying on the country's ancient pharaonic heritage.

Illegal digs near ancient temples and in isolated desert sites have swelled a staggering 100-fold over the past 16 months since a popular uprising toppled Hosni Mubarak's 29-year regime and security fell apart in many areas as police simply stopped doing their jobs. The pillaging comes on top of a wave of break-ins last year at archaeological storehouses— and even at Cairo's famed Egyptian Museum, the country's biggest repository of pharaonic artifacts.

Horrified archaeologists and antiquities authorities are scrambling to prevent smuggling, keeping a watch on European and American auction houses in case stolen artifacts show up there.

"Criminals became so bold they are digging in landmark areas." including near the Great Pyramids in Giza, other nearby pyramids and the grand temples of the southern city of Luxor, said Maj.-Gen. Abdel-Rahim Hassan, commander of the Tourism and Antiquities Police Department.

"It is no longer a crime motivated by poverty, it's naked greed and it involves educated people," he said.

In a country with more than 5,000 years of civilization buried under its sands, illegal digs have long been a problem. With only slight exaggeration, Egyptians like to joke you can dig anywhere and turn up something ancient, even if its just pottery shards or a statuette.

But in the security void, the treasure hunting has mushroomed, with 5,697 cases of illegal digs since the start of the anti-Mubarak uprising in early 2011- 100 times more than the previous year, according to figures obtained by The Associated Press from the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police.

Related crimes have risen as well— 1,467 cases of illicit trading in antiquities and 130 attempts to smuggle antiquities abroad. At least 35 people have been killed in incidents connected to illegal digs, including 10 buried alive in the southern city of Naga Hamadi in March when the hole they dug in the ground caved in. Others were killed in disputes when thieves fell out over sharing the finds, according to Interior Ministry officials familiar with the incidents. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

Those are just the crimes that police uncovered.

In their digs, fortune hunters pick spots that are just outside major archaeological sites in hopes that treasures can be found some distance beyond their parameters. Others dig in areas set aside for future excavations by the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Egypt's top state archaeological agency.

Last month, police arrested two men who lived just behind the temple of Khnum in the southern town of Esna for illegally digging under their homes. Police said they found a 10-meter (10-yard) deep hole under the houses with hieroglyphic inscriptions dating to the Ptolemaic dynasty as well as ancient clay pots.

Farther south in the Nile-side city of Aswan, police last month arrested a government employee who also dug under his house, uncovering clay pots, an incense urn and tablets bearing images of lotus flowers.

The ministry officials said the surge reflects in part the failure of the police to fully take charge of security after they melted away on Jan. 28 last year, after deadly clashes with protesters on the fourth day of the 18-day anti-Mubarak uprising. Since then, many police have been balking at investigating crimes and pursuing criminals, whether out of resentment over the "revolution" or because of the continued lack of strong political authority.

The night of Jan. 28, thieves broke into the Egyptian Museum, located on the edge of Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the anti-regime uprising and scene of some of the bloodiest clashes between protesters and Mubarak's hated police. The robbers made off with 51 pieces that were on display— of which 29 have since been recovered. The most valuable stolen piece, a statue of the Pharaoh Akhenaten, was found by a 16-year-old protester and his family returned it to the museum, the antiquities ministry said at the time.

AP

In this Tuesday, April 12, 2011 file photo, a wooden statue of Tutankhamun, right, the gilded bronze and wooden trumpet of Tutankhamun and a part of Tutankhamun's fan, left, three of four objects that were missing and returned, are displayed during a news conference in the office of Egypt's Minister of State for Antiquities Zahi Hawass, in Cairo.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel envoy meets with Palestinian president

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli envoy met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday and delivered a letter from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu detailing his government's stance on stalled peace negotiations. Yitzhak Molcho held talks with Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinians' government. The modest exchange was the highest-level communication between the Palestinians and Israelis in months. Netanyahu's office later issued a joint statement that said that "Israel and the Palestinian Authority are committed to achieving peace and the sides hope that the exchange of letters between President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu will further this goal."

Flash flood in Afghanistan kills at least 17

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A flash flood swept through villages in a mountainous area of northern Afghanistan on Friday, killing at least 17 people, authorities said. It was the second major flood reported this week in the north. Abdul Jabar Taqwa, the governor of Takhar province, said flood waters broke through a dam early Friday, washed down a valley and damaged several villages in Ishkamish district. Taqwa said 17 people were killed in the flooding. Earlier, the governor had received reports of 27 deaths.

Remains retrieved from Indonesian plane crash

MOUNT SALAK, Indonesia (AP)—Clearer weather finally allowed Indonesian helicopters to land Saturday and retrieve some remains of the 45 people aboard a Russian-made plane that crashed into a volcano during a demonstration flight.

Investigators still have found no sign of the black box recorder that might explain why the new Sukhoi Superjet-100 slammed into Mount Salak about halfway through a 50-minute flight intended to woo potential Indonesian airline buyers on Wednesday.

Relatives of the victims burst into tears as they watched men unload 10 black body bags from a military helicopter at a Jakarta airbase.

Search teams who climbed the dormant volcano's near-vertical slopes have been struggling to retrieve remains of the victims, and helicopters were unable to land because of thick fog shrouding the mountain about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Jakarta, the capital. All those aboard the flight are now presumed dead, and the plane's shredded wreckage is scattered around the dense jungle.

The teams including 15 professional climbers, have altogether filled 16 body bags with the remains they have found and on Saturday continued to search along the steep cliffs and in a nearby ravine near the wreckage, search and rescue agency spokesman Gagah Prakoso said.

"We also have deployed a team to find the black box, but so far it had yet found," Prakoso said.

Col. Anton Chastila, a police forensic doctor in Jakarta, said his team has received the remains, adding it was unclear how many victims they represent because none of the bodies were intact.

About 60 forensic experts will sort through the body parts piece by piece and take DNA samples to identify them, Chastila said.

Wednesday's demonstration flight was mostly carrying representatives from Indonesian airlines, which are rapidly expanding to serve a burgeoning middle class in the sprawling archipelago where air travel between islands is a quicker alternative to ferries.

All but 10 of the 45 people on board the plane Wednesday were potential Indonesian buyers and journalists, said Sunaryo from PT Trimarga Rekatama, the company that helped organize the event.

The others were Russians, all from Sukhoi companies, an American consultant with a local airline and a Frenchman with aircraft engine-maker Snecma.

The American was identified as Peter Adler, 53, of Oakley, California, an aviation enthusiast who collected and delivered planes for corporate customers and ensured the aircraft were technically sound, Adler's wife Randi told the Contra Costa Times newspaper.

Just 21 minutes after takeoff from a Jakarta airfield, the Russian pilot and co-pilot asked for permission to drop from 10,000 feet to 6,000 feet (3,000 meters to 1,800 meters). They gave no explanation, disappearing from the radar immediately afterward.

It was not clear why the crew asked to shift course, especially since they were so close to the 7,000-foot (2,200-meter) volcano, officials have said.

The Superjet is Russia's first new model of passenger jet since the fall of the Soviet Union two decades ago and was intended to help resurrect its aerospace industry.

Lighting up the sky

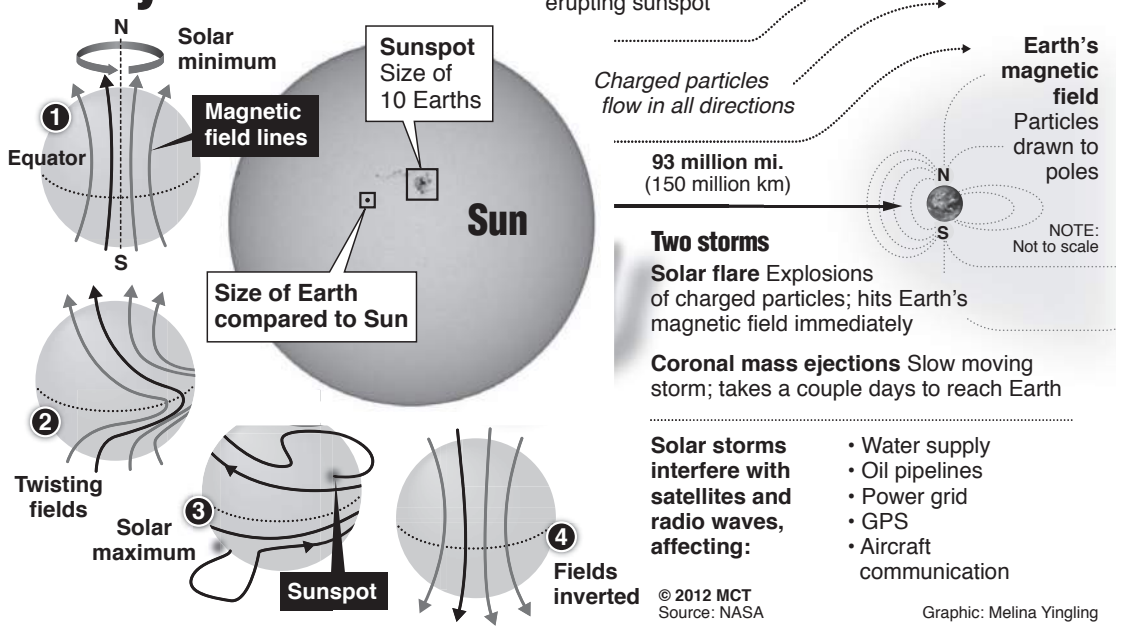
A sunspot more than 60,000 mi. (966,000 km) wide could send powerful solar flares toward Earth.

Seeing spots

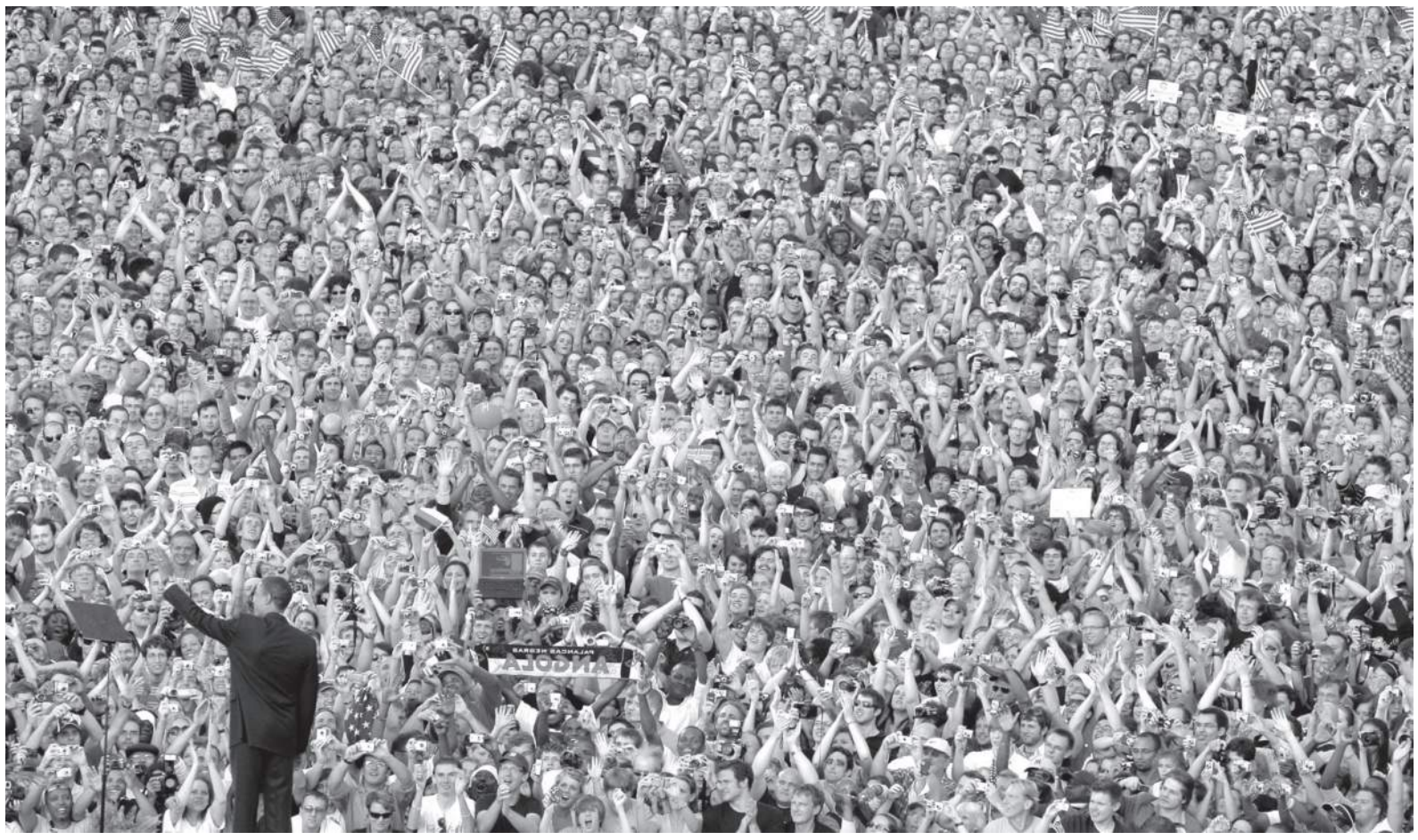
Sunspot activity is driven by the gradual reversal of the sun's magnetic field

Switching directions

- Magnetic field twists at sun's equator; field breaks through solar surface creating a kink or knot
- Sunspot is cooler than surroundings; appears as a dark spot from Earth
- Expands and contracts as it moves across sun's surface
- 11-year cycle to invert magnetic field



Focus



In this July 24, 2008 file photo, President-elect Barack Obama waves as he arrives at the Victory Column in Berlin. AP

Around the world, Obama presidency a disappointment

By DON MELVIN and ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Europe, where more than 200,000 people thronged a Berlin rally in 2008 to hear Barack Obama speak, there's disappointment that he hasn't kept his promise to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, and perceptions that he's shunting blame for the financial crisis across the Atlantic.

In Mogadishu, a former teacher wishes he had sent more economic assistance and fewer armed drones to fix Somalia's problems. And many in the Middle East wonder what became of Obama's vow, in a landmark 2009 speech at the University of Cairo, to forge a closer relationship with the Muslim world.

In a world weary of war and economic crises, and concerned about global climate change, the consensus is that Obama has not lived up to the lofty expectations that surrounded his 2008 election and Nobel Peace Prize a year later. Many in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America were also taken aback by his support for gay marriage, a taboo subject among religious conservatives.

But the Democrat still enjoys broad international support. In large part, it's because of unfavorable memories of his Republican predecessor, George W. Bush, and many people would still prefer Obama over his presumptive Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

"We all had high hopes for him," said Filomena Cunha, an office worker in Lisbon, Portugal, who said she's struggling to make ends meet. "But then things got bad and there's not much he can do for us over here."

Obama's rock-star-like reception at Berlin's Victory Column in the summer of 2008 was a high point of a wildly successful European campaign tour. The thawing of a harsh anti-Americanism that had thrived in Europe was as much a reaction to the Bush years as it was an embrace of the presidential hopeful.

Those high European expectations have turned into disappointment, largely because of the continued U.S. military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan and Obama's failure to close Guantanamo Bay in the face of vehement congressional opposition.

Foreign policy expert Josef Braml, who analyzes the U.S. for the German Council on Foreign Relations, said many Germans give Obama too much of the blame because they don't understand the limits of his powers.

"There's a lack of understanding both of how the system of checks and balances works— or doesn't work any longer— and a lack of understanding of how big the socio-economic problems in the United States are, which cause the gridlock," Braml said in a telephone call from Greece, where he was on vacation.

Obama's views on Europe's financial crisis also have rankled some on the continent. In September, he said the crisis was "scaring the world" and that steps taken by European nations to stem the eurozone debt problem "haven't been as quick as they need to be."

The Obama administration describes the eurozone crisis as a European problem that needs a European solution. The U.S. and Canada last month refused to participate in boosting the International Monetary Fund's financial resources to manage the crisis.

"I think people see through his game to put the blame on Europeans— I think Germans and Europeans still know where the economic crisis had its beginning," Braml said. "That's just finger-pointing, not doing a fair analysis of the dire situation in the U.S., but I can understand Obama is doing that because he wants to get re-elected so they need to shift blame around on the Republicans or the Europeans."

Mehmet Yegin, a specialist in Turkish-American relations at USAK, the Ankara-based International Strategic Research Organization, said Europe still sees Obama as superior to Romney, "because they primarily evaluate Romney as a Republican and their memories about George W. Bush linger."

Many in the Mideast also would like to see Obama win a second term, though they feel he has not lived up to his Cairo speech, in which he extended a hand to the Islamic world by calling for an end to the cycle of suspicion and discord.

Obama has been the U.S. president "least involved in the Palestinian issue," said Mohammed Ishtayeh, an aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"We were very optimistic when Obama was elected. He talked in his meeting with us without looking into his notes; that tells how much he knows about our issue," he said.

But since Obama made his Cairo speech, Ishtayeh added, "he found his hands tied and couldn't make much progress."

The Palestinians have refused to conduct peace talks while Israel continues to expand its settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem— areas claimed by the Palestinians. Officials have quietly given up hope for any sort of breakthrough until after the presidential election.

Obama also has a strained relationship with Israel, where Bush was popular. Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have been cool to one another in their handful of meetings. Obama's Mideast envoy, former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, made no progress during two years of frequent meetings with both sides before quitting last year.

Despite the chilly relations between Obama and Netanyahu, overall ties between the allies remain strong. The U.S. has backed Israel on several key occasions at the United Nations, for instance, helping block a Palestinian attempt to join the world body last year without a peace deal and fending off attempts by other countries to charge Israel with human rights abuses.

"Concerning Israel, he has proved that he is not absolutely rigid but is willing to reconsider when confronted with facts that he would not have expected," said Avraham Diskin, a political scientist at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

"He began very inexperienced on all fronts, but he is a very intelligent person and Israelis see that," Diskin added.

In Iraq, site of the war that fed much of the international community's dislike of Bush, Obama has received some credit for pulling out combat forces last year.

"President Obama has removed so much of the cowboy image of America that has been imprinted in the mentality of Iraqis by Bush," Baghdad lawyer Raad Mehsin said.

But Carawan Ahmed, a high school teacher in Iraq's northern Kurdish capital of Irbil, said Obama has ignored the Kurdish minority, which continues to struggle against the Shiite-dominated government.

> *"We all had high hopes for him. But then things got bad and there's not much he can do for us over here."*

"When Democrats, including Obama, are in power, we lose the sympathy and support from America. To be frank, the Republicans protected the Kurdish people, while Obama's administration is not," Ahmed said.

In Mogadishu, former schoolteacher Fadumo Hussein retains a shaken support for Obama, but disapproves of the mounting casualties from U.S. drone attacks on Somalia's al-Qaida-linked insurgency while the country's humanitarian need is neglected.

"He only sent drones, not enough assistance," Hussein said. "We don't need bombs, but other means of assistance."

Obama remains popular in Japan, one of the United States' closest allies, though that may be a matter of style over substance, said Koichi Nakano, political science professor at Sophia University in Tokyo.

"The Japanese like Obama. Maybe they don't know all that much about him, but I guess he continues to be seen as a youthful, energetic, charismatic leader," he said.

America's stature has taken a hit in Japan since the 2008 financial meltdown, which highlighted the excesses of U.S.-style capitalism to many Japanese. They also fret about the increased attention Washington is giving China, which supplanted Japan as the world's second-largest economy.

While still widely admired in Japan, the U.S. "comes across as a more divided country and less self-confident, more concerned about its social harmony and less about the outside world," Nakano said. That's translated into "a general perception that Obama may not be that interested in foreign policy, period."

Obama, however, has tried to build on America's connections to Asia as authoritarian China grows. Adam Lockyer, a lecturer at Sydney University's U.S. Studies Center, said those efforts have been received more warmly in Australia because of who is in charge.

During a visit last year in which he received an overwhelmingly popular reception, Obama announced that up to 2,500 U.S. Marines will be stationed in Australia's north for joint training exercises. Australian government fears of a public backlash were never realized.

"The fact that Obama himself was making the announcement of U.S. troops in Australia quelled a lot of fears," Lockyer said. If Bush had made it, he said, "there would have been a lot more hostility."

"Democrat presidents tend to be a little bit more hesitant to define the world as good and evil, which tends to be more attractive to Australian ears," he said.

Health & Fitness

AIDS fight enters new phase with prevention pill

CHICAGO (AP)—Condoms and other safe-sex practices have accomplished only so much. Now the 30-year battle against AIDS is on the verge of a radical new phase, with the government expected to endorse a once-a-day pill to prevent infection with the virus.

Some doctors are already giving patients the drug, Truvada, to ward off infection. But Food and Drug Administration approval would expand that practice and could make the highly expensive medicine more affordable. Truvada costs around $11,000 to $14,000 a year.

Approval seems likely after an FDA advisory panel Thursday endorsed the use of Truvada for prevention.

In the generation-long fight against AIDS, "it's the first time we have talked about a medication for prevention of HIV," said Dr. Lisa Sterman of Francisco, who treats HIV-positive patients.

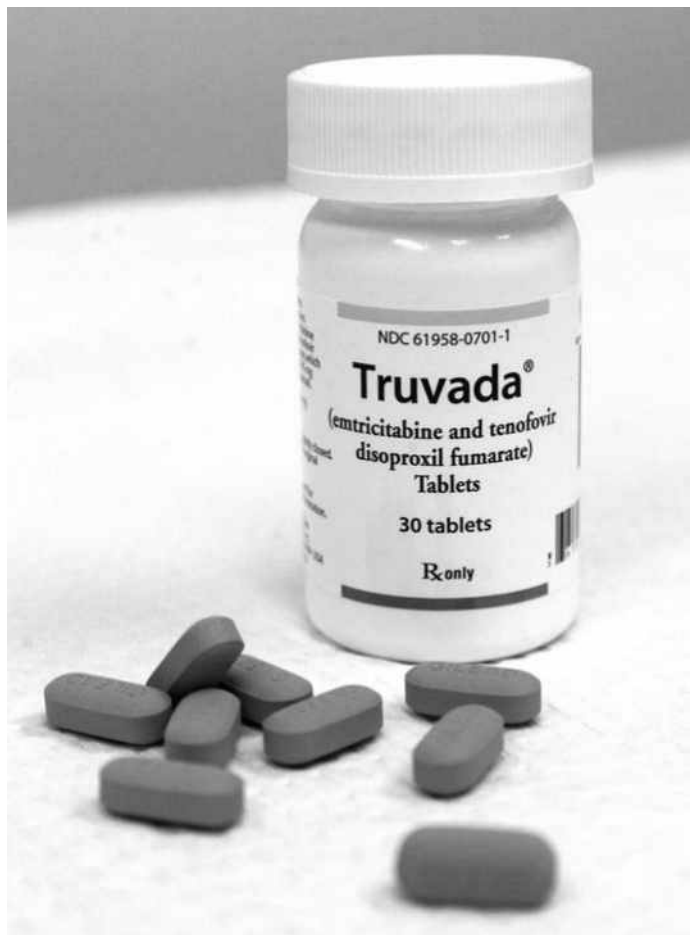
"With this recommendation, we're nearing a watershed moment in our fight against HIV," said James Loduca, a spokesman for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "We know this isn't a magic bullet, and it's not going to be the right prevention strategy for everyone, but it could save thousands of lives in the United States and potentially millions around the world."

Truvada has been FDA-approved since 2004 for treating people infected with the AIDS virus. Once a drug is on the market, doctors are free to prescribe it for off-label, or unapproved, uses, and that's what some have been doing in giving Truvada to patients who are healthy but in danger of getting the virus from their partners or through risky sex.

Official FDA backing of the practice would allow Truvada's maker, Gilead Sciences Inc. of Foster City, Calif., to market it for prevention. Approval would also probably lead many more insurance companies to pay for the drug. And by widening the market for Truvada, it could prompt Gilead to lower the price.

An FDA decision is expected by June 15.

The FDA is also considering approving the first over-the-counter HIV test for use at home. Experts said it could help slow the spread of HIV.



AP

This Thursday, May 10, 2012 photo shows a bottle of Truvada at the office of Dr. Lisa Sterman in San Francisco.

An estimated 1.2 million Americans and millions more around the world have HIV. Unless the virus is treated with antiviral drugs, it can turn into full-blown AIDS. Antivirals have made the disease more manageable and allowed patients to live much longer than when the epidemic began in the early 1980s.

Nevertheless, about 50,000 new infections are diagnosed in the U.S. each year, a number that has held steady for about 15 years.

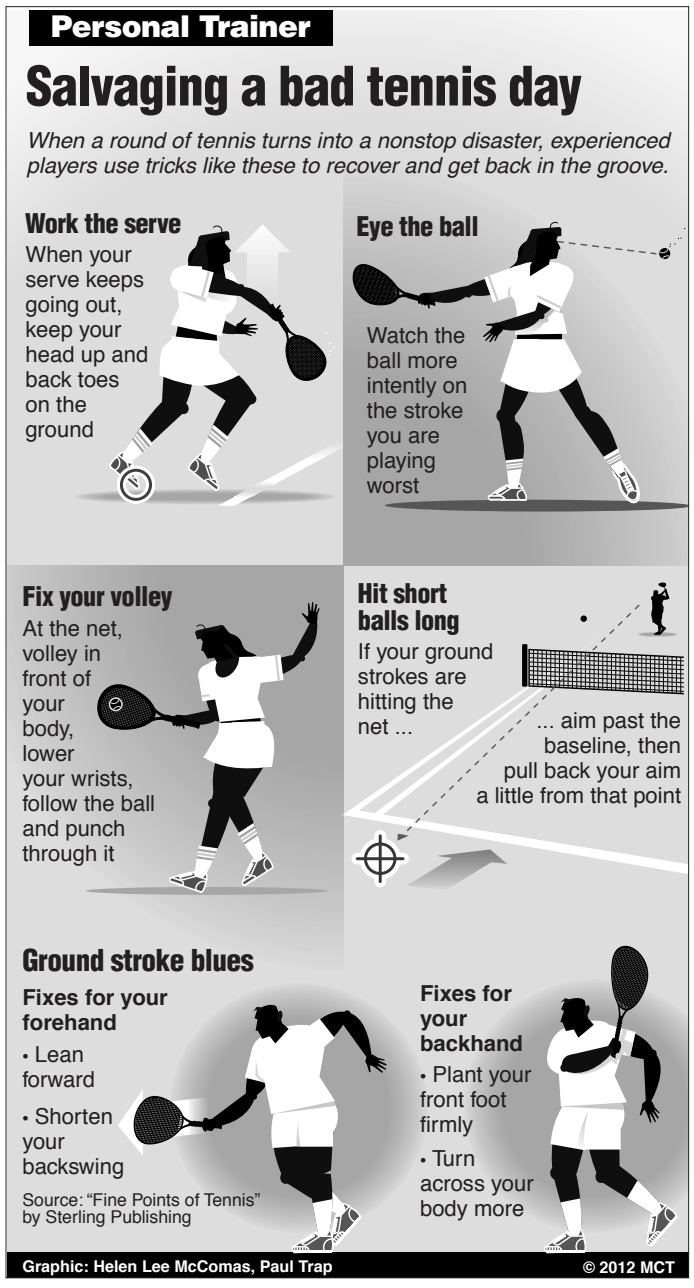
Truvada represents "a pretty radical step, but I think it's a necessary step," said Sterman, who prescribes it to infected patients and those who are healthy but at risk. "We've come as far as we can with condom use and safe-sex strategies."

The drug would be recommended for people at high risk of getting the virus, such as gay men with multiple sex partners, prostitutes and people whose partners are infected.

In one U.S. government study of more than 1,200 men and women in Botswana, Truvada lowered the HIV infection risk by about 78 percent. Another larger study in Africa found a slightly lower rate of effectiveness, but researchers say that if used as directed, the pill can be 90 percent effective or higher.

It is available as an HIV treatment in Africa and other poor regions, but Gilead is seeking approval for prevention in the U.S. only, a company spokeswoman said. Some experts have expressed concern that the use of Truvada for prevention could cause shortages in poor countries that desperately need the drug to treat infected people.

Not everyone in the HIV community is gung-ho about the drug.


Personal Trainer
Salvaging a bad tennis day
When a round of tennis turns into a nonstop disaster, experienced players use tricks like these to recover and get back in the groove.
Work the serve
When your serve keeps going out, keep your head up and back toes on the ground
Eye the ball
Watch the ball more intently on the stroke you are playing worst
Fix your volley
At the net, volley in front of your body, lower your wrists, follow the ball and punch through it
Hit short balls long
If your ground strokes are hitting the net ...
... aim past the baseline, then pull back your aim a little from that point
Ground stroke blues
Fixes for your forehand
• Lean forward
• Shorten your backswing
Fixes for your backhand
• Plant your front foot firmly
• Turn across your body more
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Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
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FDA delays rules meant to ease sunscreen confusion

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sunscreen confusion won't be over before summer after all. The government is bowing to industry requests for more time to make clear how much protection their lotions really offer.

The Food and Drug Administration ordered changes to sunscreens last summer but gave their makers a year—until this June—to get revised bottles on the shelf.

The changes aimed to finally distinguish which brands protected against both sunburn-causing ultraviolet B rays and the deeper-penetrating ultraviolet A linked to skin cancer and premature aging. They also couldn't claim to be waterproof or sweatproof, only water- or sweat-resistant—so that people know sunscreens have to be reapplied frequently.

But sunscreen manufacturers said they were having a hard time meeting the deadline. And Friday, the FDA said it would give major sunscreen makers another six months to make the changes—until December, beyond sunbathing season in most of the country. Smaller companies will have even longer, until December 2013.

"The FDA took a major step backwards today and as a result, more consumers will likely get burned this summer," said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., who had long urged the FDA to tighten its regulation of sunscreens. The regulations had been in limbo for years.

But FDA officials worried that holding companies to the original deadline might lead to a temporary shortage of some types of sunscreen this summer, spokeswoman Shelly Burgess said in an email.

Still, the FDA said companies could go ahead and put the new relabeled bottles on store shelves as soon as they're ready—and encouraged them not to waste time.

There is a mix already in stores, as some companies have found it easier to re-label certain brands and bottles than others, said Farah Ahmed of the industry's Personal Care Products Council.

But neither she nor the FDA could estimate how many of the new consumer-friendly sunscreens have made it to the market so far.

Ahmed, who chairs the council's sunscreen task force, said sunscreens aren't having to be reformulated as a result of new testing requirements from the FDA's pending rules. The real problem was the time it takes to revise package labeling, especially on smaller packages that now will have to fit extra information about just what protection is offered, she said.

So what should consumers look for today?

■ You want protection against both UVA and UVB rays, explained Dr. Joshua Zeichner, a dermatologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. Once the new rules are in place, any sunscreen labeled "broad spectrum" will offer both, but until then, there's no guarantee behind that wording.

■ To check for UVA protection now, look on the ingredient list for any of these names: zinc, titanium, avobenzone or ecamsule. Zeichner said.

■ Once the new rules are in place, sunscreens with less than an SPF of 15 or that aren't "broad spectrum" will have to carry a warning label: "This product has been shown only to help prevent sunburn, not skin cancer or early skin aging."

■ Zeichner advises using a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.

■ If it still says "waterproof," it was bottled under the old rules. Once the new rules are in place, the sunscreens will have to say how long they're water-resistant.

■ A good rule of thumb is to apply about a shot-glass full of sunscreen and to reapply often, Zeichner said

And experts say to avoid direct sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or to cover up. Even if you're conscientious about sunscreen, it's easy to miss a spot.

What you need to know about sunburns and tanning

Roughly half of young adults under 30 say they've had a sunburn in the past year. Not a big deal?

It raises the risk for skin cancer, including melanoma, a rare but often lethal cancer. Experts say that even one blistering burn can double the risk of developing melanoma.

THINK TANNING BEDS ARE SAFER?

You'd be wrong. The World Health Organization classifies tanning devices as carcinogens, meaning their use can lead to cancer.

THINK YOU NEED TO BE BRONZE TO LOOK GOOD?

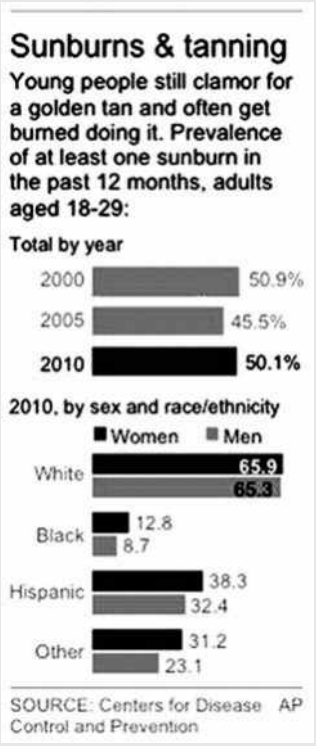
Well, the pale look hasn't been a problem for celebs like Kristen Stewart, Gwyneth Paltrow or Taylor Swift.

WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DARK SKIN? DO THEY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE SUN?

Melanoma risk for blacks and other dark-skinned people is much lower, but even they can develop it.

WHAT'S THE ADVICE?

To be safe, avoid direct sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or cover yourself. And when you must be in the sun, use sunscreen often.


Sunburns & tanning
Young people still clamor for a golden tan and often get burned doing it. Prevalence of at least one sunburn in the past 12 months, adults aged 18-29:
Total by year
2000 50.9%
2005 45.5%
2010 50.1%
2010, by sex and race/ethnicity
Women Men
White 65.9 65.3
Black 12.8 8.7
Hispanic 38.3 32.4
Other 31.2 23.1
SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
AP

Life & Style

Young cancer patients' 'Stronger' video a big hit

SEATTLE (AP)—A video featuring cancer-stricken children, their nurses, doctors and parents lip-synching and dancing to the popular Kelly Clarkson song "Stronger" has become an online sensation.

Clarkson, in her own video message to the children at Seattle Children's Hospital, said it was "amazing."

"It made my day. I know it's making everybody else's day online," Clarkson said in a message posted on her website. "I just can't wait to meet you."

The youngsters, many attached to IVs and holding signs that say "Stronger," "Fighter" and "Hope," dance along with parents and medical staff. One child even rides a bike through the hallways of the hematology oncology floor. The video is part of a creative arts program with cancer patients at Seattle Children's.

The kids' video went online May 6. It was the idea of 22-year-old Chris Rumble, a patient at the hospital who was diagnosed with leukemia in April. He wanted to do something to share with his old hockey team in the central Washington town of Wenatchee

AP

In this Sept. 22, 2011 file photo, singer Kelly Clarkson poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

"I'm everyone's big brother and I have a lot of friends here at Seattle Children's," Rumble said on the hospital's blog.

Dr. Douglas Hawkins said the patients and staff at Seattle Children's have been thrilled by the response.

"This morning it was over 900,000 views. It's really incredible," he said Friday.

Hawkins said such projects help the kids maintain their spirits.

"When a child or young adult is treated for cancer, it puts their whole life on hold in a way that doesn't seem fair at all," Hawkins said. "It's a fight for their life. But there are all these other normal things they want to be doing too, or things they want to focus on other than the medicine or the illness or their time in the hospital."

Prince William, Kate dress up for UK Olympic team

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge have dressed to the nines to support the British Olympics team at a gala dinner.

The royal couple was among the audience at the event at London's Royal Albert Hall, which features singers Gary Barlow and Will Young.

The Duchess, formerly known as Kate Middleton, dazzled photographers in a teal Jenny Packham gown, while William wore a dinner suit.

The prince said Friday he could not wait for the Games to begin, and encouraged Britain's Olympics and Paralympics athletes in a speech, saying: "Glory awaits you."

The Olympics will take place July 27-Aug. 12.

AP

Prince William and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge at the Royal Albert Hall for a British Olympic Team GB gala event in London, Friday, May 11, 2012.

US author's book is being confused with '50 Shades'

PARKLAND, Florida (AP)—The author of a book called "Shades of Gray" says her work is being confused with that of a chart-topping erotic fiction writer.

Susanne Jacoby Hale, an author based in Florida, says she has received emails, Facebook messages and phone calls from people thinking she wrote "Fifty Shades of Grey."

"Fifty Shades of Grey," by British author E L James, has sold millions of copies and become a sensation among women drawn to the sadomasochistic romance between a college student and a wealthy entrepreneur.

Hale's book is about a dropout prevention teacher.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reports even Hale's family members are being approached. Her husband, a medical sales representative, says doctors regularly approach him wanting to talk about the book.

Two charged with trying to extort Stevie Wonder

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two people have been charged with extortion after police detectives say they arrested the pair for trying to sell what they said was embarrassing information about Stevie Wonder.

The duo, Alpha Lorenzo Walker and his girlfriend Tamara Eileen Diaz, have been jailed since their arrest on May 2. Both have pleaded not guilty and are scheduled to appear in court on May 16 for a hearing in which a judge will decide whether there is enough evidence for them to stand trial.

According to a felony complaint, Walker and Diaz attempted to obtain money from the Grammy-winning musician, who is identified by his birth name, Steveland Morris. An email message sent to Wonder's studio was not immediately returned Friday.

Walker, 38, was on probation at the time of his arrest after pleading no contest to grand theft in May 2011. A judge issued a suspended three-year prison sentence in that case and he is due in court for a probation violation hearing May 31.

District attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison says Walker contacted Wonder's representatives claiming to have embarrassing information about the musician. Detectives organized a sting and the pair were arrested. Police did not release additional details about their investigation Friday.

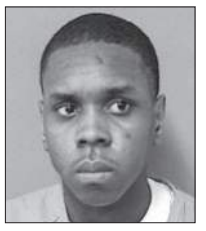
Walker identifies himself as Wonder's nephew and is being held without bail because of another case.

Diaz's bail is set at $95,000. Both are being represented by public defenders, who did not immediately return calls for comment.

Diaz was placed on three years of probation after pleading no contest in February 2011 to possession of marijuana with the intent to sell, court records show.

The case was first reported Friday by celebrity website TMZ.

Jury: Hudson stardom no factor in murders verdict



Hudson

CHICAGO (AP)—Jurors shrugged off Jennifer Hudson's star status and insisted it played no role in their decision to convict her former brother-in-law for slaying the Oscar winner's mother, brother and nephew—a verdict that means the 31-year-old Chicago man will likely spend the rest of his life behind bars.

"This wasn't about her," juror Jacinta Gholston said. "It was a case about William Balfour."

Just an hour before convicting Balfour of first-degree murder Friday, jurors told the judge three among them still weren't convinced of his guilt. Prosecutors said Balfour shot dead Hudson's family members in an act of spite after his estranged wife at the time, Hudson's sister, Julia Hudson, refused to reconcile.

As the verdict was read, Jennifer Hudson, sitting on a fourth-row bench, bit her lip, tears streaming down her cheeks. A minute later, she looked over at her sister and smiled.

The Hudson sisters released a statement late Friday extending a prayer to the Balfour family, saying "we have all suffered terrible loss in this tragedy."

"It is our prayer that the Lord will forgive Mr. Balfour of these heinous acts and bring his heart into repentance someday," they said.

It was overwhelming circumstantial evidence, especially cellphone records that placed Balfour in the vicinity of the killings, despite his adamant denials, that convinced the jury in the end, jurors said.

Jury foreman Robert Smith said he "was certain from the very beginning," though several others initially expressed doubts.

Going into the trial last month, some legal observers said Hudson's aura of celebrity couldn't help but affect its outcome. But asked if any of them were even fans of the singer and actress, 10 jurors who spoke to the media at a joint news conference looked at each other and shook their heads.

Jennifer Hudson was the first of 83 witnesses prosecutors called. Several times she broke down from the witness stand, including when she spoke of Balfour with undisguised disgust.

But jurors said Hudson's words on the stand, while touching, provided no actual evidence.

"We did ignore it," Gholston, a 35-year-old chocolate company employee, said about the deliberations. "There was no discussion of Jennifer Hudson."

The focus, others explained, was ensuring they were right that Balfour was, in fact, the killer. Several jurors said they had sympathy for Balfour, knowing his life as he knew it hung in the balance.

Illinois no longer has a death penalty, so Balfour faces a mandatory life prison sentence.

"Some of us tried to make him innocent," said Tracie Austin, one of the three jurors who wasn't fully convinced of his guilt as of early Friday afternoon. "We couldn't."

Still, some experts say Hudson's stardom may have influenced jurors—even if they sincerely believed it didn't.

"She is certainly quite beloved . . . so there is likely to have been very positive feelings toward her," said Edward Schwartz, a New England-based jury consultant. When a case is based almost wholly on circumstantial evidence, "likeability" factors can play an even greater role, he added.

While Balfour showed no emotion when the verdict was announced, a few of his relatives looked upset, one muttering that the verdict was unfair. As she had several times during the trial, Hudson looked back at Balfour's supporters, then whispered something to her sister.

With no surviving witnesses to the 2008 slayings, prosecutors built a convincing circumstantial case. Hudson's sister described how Balfour repeatedly threatened her, citing him as saying ominously, "'If you ever leave me, I'm going to kill you. But I'm going to kill your family first.'"

Balfour's attorneys suggested someone else in the crime-ridden neighborhood on Chicago's South Side targeted the family because of alleged crack-cocaine dealing by Jennifer Hudson's brother.

Public defender Amy Thompson said Friday she would appeal the verdict.

Hudson, 30, rose to prominence as a 2004 "American Idol" finalist. She became a bona fide star after winning the 2007 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in the movie "Dreamgirls."

She attended every day of testimony, sobbing when photos of her relatives' bloodied, bullet-ridden bodies were displayed to jurors. Several jurors, too, said they would never forget the images.

Balfour lived in the Hudsons' three-story Englewood home after marrying Julia Hudson in 2006. He moved out in early 2008 after their falling out.

The killings occurred the morning of Oct. 24, 2008. Prosecutors said Balfour became enraged when he stopped by the family home where Jennifer Hudson grew up and saw a gift of balloons from Julia Hudson's new boyfriend.

After she left for work, Balfour went back inside with a .45-caliber handgun and shot Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, 57, in the back; he shot Jason Hudson, 29, twice in the head as he lay in bed.

Prosecutors said Balfour drove off in an SUV with 7-year-old Julian King and shot him in the head as he lay behind a front seat. His body was found in the abandoned vehicle after a three-day search.

Smith, the jury foreman, said he hoped the verdict would bring Hudson closure.

"I hope she can put this thing behind her and get on with the rest of her life," he said.

Betty White reveals her presidential preference

WASHINGTON (AP)—Betty White says she usually keeps her political views private but in this presidential election strongly favors one candidate.

As she prepares to visit the Smithsonian Institution and National Zoo next week, White told The Associated Press she "very, very much favors" President Barack Obama in the election.

The 90-year-old actress said Friday she is very bi-partisan and has stayed away from politics all of her life. She usually never says who she is for or against because she doesn't want to turn off any of her adoring fans.

White says in this year's election, she likes what Obama has done and "how he represents us."

Her comments come after Hollywood turned out at George Clooney's home to raise $15 million for Obama's re-election, a record for a single fundraiser.

AP

Actress Betty White poses for a portrait following her appearance on the television talk show "In the House," in Burbank, Calif., in this Nov. 24, 2009 file photo.

Eagles, Krauss honored at Boston music school

BOSTON (AP)—The largest independent college of contemporary music in the world has awarded honorary degrees to the Eagles and Grammy Award-winning country singer Alison Krauss at a ceremony in Boston.

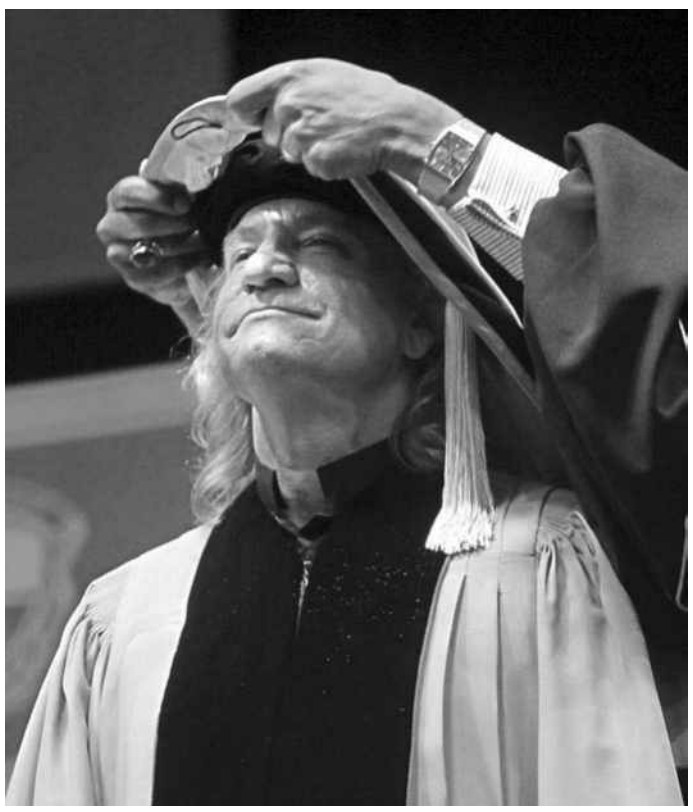
The city's Berklee College of Music also has honored influential Ethiopian musician Mulatu Astatke, an alumnus.

The artists were honored during the school's commencement ceremony Saturday.

Students paid tribute to the artists with a concert featuring their music. More than 900 students from 58 countries graduated from Berklee this year.

Eagles Glenn Frey, Don Henley, Joe Walsh and Timothy B. Schmit didn't perform at the nonprofit school.

Berklee says its alumni include Quincy Jones, Esperanza Spalding, Diana Krall, Joey Kramer, Natalie Maines, John Mayer, Aimee Mann, Branford Marsalis, Melissa Etheridge and Gary Burton, who have won a total of 221 Grammys.



AP

Eagles member Joe Walsh receives an honorary doctor of music degree during the commencement ceremony of Berklee College of Music at Agganis Arena in Boston, Saturday, May 12, 2012.

Court clears way for sale of Ira Gershwin letters

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York memorabilia dealer has settled a lawsuit that had sought to block him from selling 135 letters written by lyricist Ira Gershwin.

The Daily News reports that the settlement between memorabilia dealer Gary Zimet and the daughter of Gershwin's biographer was filed Friday in a Manhattan court.

The biographer's daughter, Carla Jablonski, had asked the court to block Zimet from selling the letters to the Library of Congress for $325,000.

Jablonski said in her lawsuit that the letters must have been stolen from her apartment. She hadn't accused Zimet of the theft.

Her father, Edward Jablonski, wrote several books on Gershwin including the 1958 biography "The Gershwin Years: George and Ira."

After he died, the family donated most of his Gershwin archive to the Library of Congress.

Reese Witherspoon's parents attend an emergency hearing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Reese Witherspoon's family has gathered in a Nashville, Tenn., courtroom for an emergency conservatorship hearing.

Witherspoon's mother, Betty, petitioned a judge earlier this week to have her estranged husband John's recent— and possibly illegal— marriage annulled.

A video on The Tennessean website shows the visibly pregnant Witherspoon holding her father's arm as they walked into a courtroom Friday afternoon.

A judge sealed all records in the case and barred media from the hearing, The Tennessean reports. A court clerk said Friday there was no record of the hearing as the courthouse closed.

John and Betty Witherspoon are still married, but have been separated for more than 15 years. She says her husband married Tricianne Taylor on Jan. 12 and may be in a weakened mental state.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Fire at 'Vampire Diaries' set won't affect filming

COVINGTON, Ga. (AP)—Authorities say a fire that damaged a Georgia business used as a backdrop in "The Vampire Diaries" should not affect filming of the television series. The Covington News reports that Thursday's fire struck the interior of the building known on the television show as the Mystic Grill. Fire officials say the facade for the fictional restaurant remains intact. The building's interior, which houses law offices, sustained significant damage. Lawyer Jimmy Alexander said he didn't have a cost for the damage, but said repairs could possibly reach $1 million considering the building, built in 1890, will now need to comply with current building codes. Covington police Capt. Ken Malcom says the fire was sparked by electrical wires that came down after a tall delivery truck snagged overhead power lines.

US star Kevin Spacey debuts South African short

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—U.S. actor and director Kevin Spacey says he is looking for opportunity in Africa, Asia and Europe. Spacey spoke about his outlook during a brief visit to the South African capital Johannesburg. With backing from a whiskey company, Spacey ran an international contest to find film making talent from the United States, Russia and South Africa. A script from each country was chosen, and Spacey starred in and helped produce three films, including 26-year-old Cape Town writer-director Alan Shelley's "A Spirit of a Denture," which was given a red carpet premiere in Johannesburg Saturday. Spacey, who also recently worked on a Chinese film and is artistic director at London's Old Vic Theatre, says, "I like the idea of going to as many places as possible and (having) as many experiences as you can."

Author Charles Baxter wins prize for short fiction

NEW YORK (AP)—Charles Baxter, a fiction writer whose books include "Harmony of the World" and "Gryphon," has won a $30,000 prize for short fiction. Baxter, who turns 65 next week, is this year's winner of the Rea Award for the Short Story, a lifetime achievement honor. In a statement released Friday, prize judges praised Baxter's "original mind and ironic wit" and his "acute feeling for the landscape of marriage, childhood, and art." The Rea award was established in 1986. Previous winners include John Updike, Grace Paley and Richard Ford.

Teen with traffic violations may get ticket only to ride

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My niece, "Amy," got her driver's license last November. Since then she has been stopped six times for violations. Unfortunately, she wasn't ticketed for any of them —just given warnings. Who knows how many other times she should have been ticketed?

When Amy told me about it, she acted like it was a joke and something she was proud of. Her parents are divorced and her father spoils her beyond reason. He gives her whatever she wants, including buying her a new car. Her mother has little control over her.

My niece doesn't seem to understand the possible consequences or what serious damage a car can do to her or to someone else. How should I handle this? I have no contact with her father. Any ideas?

CONCERNED AUNT IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR CONCERNED AUNT: Although Amy was old enough to get her license, she is not yet mature enough to handle the responsibility that goes along with driving. For her sake I hope you will impress upon her mother that LIVES could depend upon her exerting control over her daughter.

Many states restrict conditions under which a teen may drive a car. In addition, many parents draft a driving contract that stipulates things like what kind of grade-point average their teenager must maintain to keep his or her driving privileges, limiting the number of passengers he or she can transport and certain distance limits.

Other restrictions can be added at the parents' option. A version of the following contract has appeared in my column before:

I ( ), agree to the stipulations stated below granting me the privilege of driving. If, at any time, I violate this agreement, my driving privileges will be forfeited.

(1) Should I get a traffic ticket, I agree to pay for the ticket, as well as the difference in the insurance premium for as long as the premium is in effect.

(2) I agree to pay for damages that I incur that are not covered by insurance.

(3) At no time will I ever text or use a cellphone while driving.

(4) At no time will I ever drink alcoholic beverages and drive, nor will there ever be any in my car.

(5) I will not drive the car until I and all passengers have buckled up.

(6) I will keep the car I drive clean, inside and out, be aware of its need for gas, oil, etc., and wax it as needed.

I have read the above agreement and will sign it in accordance with the rules.

SIGNED: (CHILD)

I hope you will share this information with Amy's mother, because in careless hands a car can be as dangerous as a loaded gun. It is not a toy, even though your niece appears to be treating it like one.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 60-year-old sister is being married for the third time. She's planning to wear a long, white wedding gown and will be having a maid of honor, bridesmaids, a rehearsal dinner and reception. We are encouraging her to have a small, quiet ceremony with only family and close friends. Who is correct?

REALISTIC SISTER, PORT ORANGE, FLA.

DEAR SISTER: According to the etiquette books, you are. However, the rules regarding brides and weddings have become so pliable that couples pretty much do as they please these days. Whatever your sister decides, just hope she and her groom will have a healthy, happy, lasting union because in the end that is what's important.

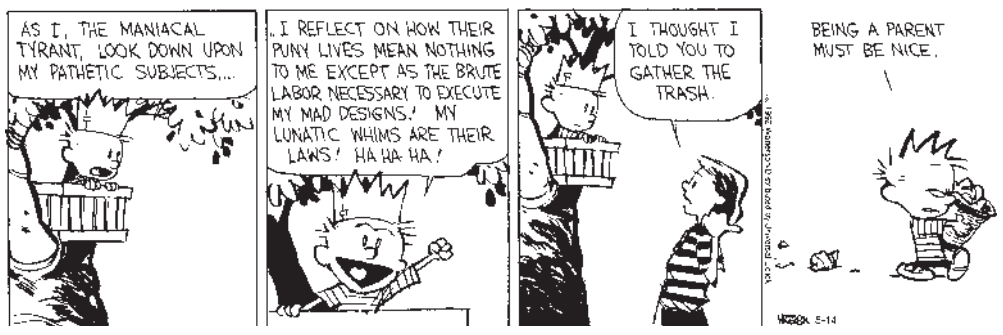
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AS I, THE MANIACAL TYRANT, LOOK DOWN UPON MY PATHETIC SUBJECTS,...
I REFLECT ON HOW THEIR PUNY LIVES MEAN NOTHING TO ME EXCEPT AS THE BRUTE LABOR NECESSARY TO EXECUTE MY MAD DESIGNS. MY LUNATIC WHIMS ARE THEIR LAWS! HA HA HA!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GATHER THE TRASH.
BEING A PARENT MUST BE NICE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GOOD NEWS
YOU'RE IN NO DANGER OF FALLING
WHEW. NOW I CAN RELAX
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
JIM DAVIS 5-14
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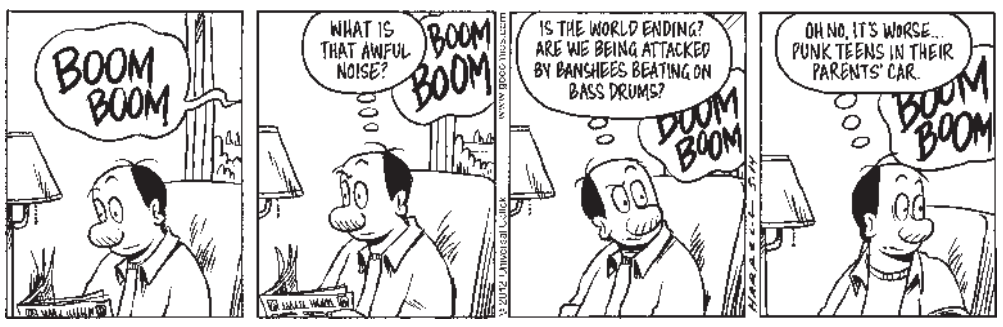
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BOOM BOOM
WHAT IS THAT AWFUL NOISE?
BOOM BOOM
IS THE WORLD ENDING? ARE WE BEING ATTACKED BY BANSHEES BEATING ON BASS DRUMS?
DOOM BOOM
OH NO, IT'S WORSE... PUNK TEENS IN THEIR PARENTS' CAR.
BOOM BOOM
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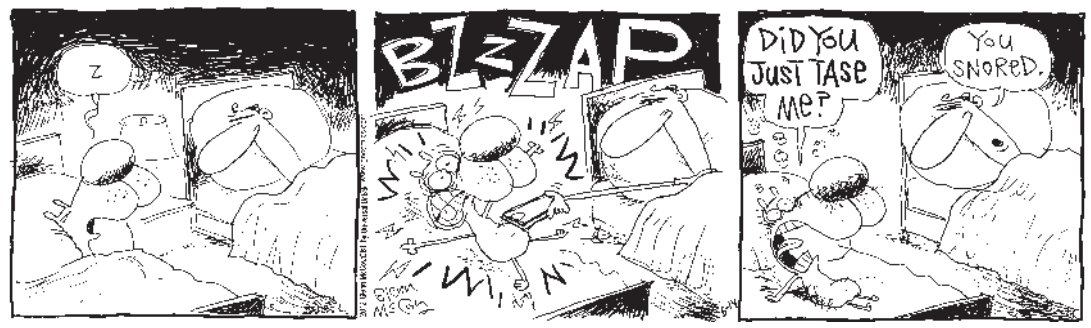
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Space
4 Angels' illuminants
9 Total
12 Past
13 Vote into office
14 Gorilla
15 Moon, for instance
17 Youngster
18 CDs' forerunners
19 Winter weasel
21 Easter egg container
24 Golf props
25 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
26 Water barrier
28 Vaults
31 On pension (Abbr.)
33 In medias —
35 Tragic
36 Speaks unclearly
38 Guy's counterpart
40 Away from WSW
41 Regretted
43 Maestro, e.g.
45 Wisconsin, the — State
47 Slight amount
48 Genetic messenger
49 Duke Ellington classic
54 Whatever number
55 "Excavating for —"
56 Trouble
57 More (Sp.)
58 Subsided
59 Ram's mate

DOWN
1 Petrol
2 Khan title
3 Cauldron
4 Lent a hand
5 Outstanding athlete
6 Islander's neckwear
7 Group of eight
8 Cordwood measures
9 Content
10 "Once — a time, ..."
11 Apportion (out)
16 Wapiti
20 Anthropologist Margaret
21 Behind — (in jail)
22 First victim
23 Halves of weekends
27 "Little Women" woman
29 Sea eagle
30 Prognosticator
32 Pharmaceutical
34 Cracker type
37 Teetertotter
39 Tilted
42 Pulitzer Prize category
44 Find 9-Across
45 "Dracula" author Stoker
46 Actress Paquin
50 Can material
51 Have bills
52 Depressed
53 Shelter

Solution time: 24 mins.

F	L	U		A	G	E	D		S	L	O	W
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			Y	E	S		A	R	K			
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S	P	A	S		J	O	E		D	A	D	A
I	N	K		P	E	P		C	E	D	A	R
			F	E	Z		O	H	M			
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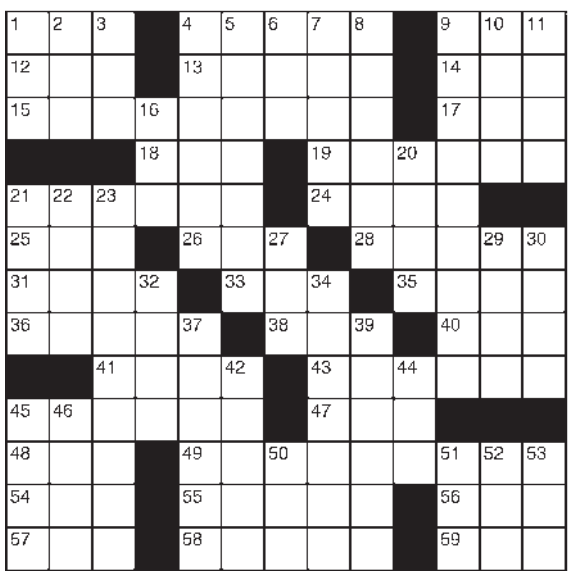
Saturday's answer 5-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miranda Cosgrove, 19; Cate Blanchett, 43; Tim Roth, 51; George Lucas, 68.

Happy Birthday: Do what you can to help others. Your loyalty, dedication and determination will enhance your reputation. Good ideas and a little discipline will lead to financial improvements. Favors will be granted and donations made. You'll discover you have more assets than you realize and that you can improve your lifestyle with a few minor changes. Your numbers are 3, 10, 17, 23, 26, 34, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Hidden matters must be kept that way. Sharing too much will result in sudden changes that may not fit into your schedule. Bide your time and focus more on stability and security than the "wow factor" approach you often take. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can make reforms, offer help and enhance your reputation by volunteering your knowledge, expertise and time. Your gracious attitude will in turn bring you good fortune and greater opportunities to utilize your skills. Reach for the stars. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't share your thoughts unless you are prepared to be on the defensive. Iron out the details and work quietly behind the scenes. Reassess your financial situation and you will be able to free up some cash to support your plans. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take your time and do things to your specifications. Enjoy whatever you are doing and let your imagination flow. Attitude will play a heavy role in the outcome of any undertaking you pursue. Explore every possibility and you will excel. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let unpredictability lower your chance to gain approval. You'll have to take a quieter approach with business, peers and authority figures if you want to advance. Making too big a splash or promising the impossible won't work. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Share your ideas. You'll dazzle some and threaten others with your no-nonsense approach to the development of your plans. Stick to your objectives and move briskly forward to make notable progress toward your goal. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take better care of your interests. Doing everything for everyone could cost you emotionally, physically or financially. Offer suggestions, but take time to rejuvenate. Love is on the rise, and a romantic encounter will do you good. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You've got all the right moves, so don't hesitate to make things happen. If you wait for others to do things for you, nothing will be accomplished. Think big, take action and show your strength, willpower and courage to proceed alone. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Caution will be necessary while traveling or discussing important matters with your peers, relatives or anyone who could affect your future. A quick change at home can bring good results and spare you from an unfortunate situation. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Explore new avenues and unite the old with the new to come up with a workable plan that will please anyone vying for your attention. A little will go a long way if you strive for perfection. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep your thoughts secret for now. Someone will be eager to misinterpret what you say, causing a backlash of problems with peers, friends or relatives. Focus on perfecting what you do best and not presenting before you are fully prepared. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can learn a lot from a past experience. Before reusing someone's idea, ask for approval. Personal changes won't turn out as planned. Before you make a move, consider the consequences. Giving back will be more rewarding then receiving. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have high expectations and strong beliefs. You dream and you make it happen.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	8		4		7		9	
						1		5
	5			8	1			
5		4		9				7
		9				8		
6				2		3		9
			2	7			6	
1		2						8
	7		3		6		4	

Difficulty Level ★ 5/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	6	7	1	9	3	8	2
9	8	7	2	3	6	4	5	1
3	2	1	8	5	4	9	6	7
7	3	5	6	4	2	1	9	8
2	9	4	1	8	3	5	7	6
6	1	8	9	7	5	2	3	4
8	6	2	3	9	1	7	4	5
1	4	3	5	6	7	8	2	9
5	7	9	4	2	8	6	1	3

Difficulty level ★★★★ 5/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STARBUCKS Solution: 6 letters

D	S	E	W	B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	M	S
F	E	E	I	I	C	C	M	R	E	L	B	M	U	T
S	R	C	I	K	N	A	U	T	S	A	O	R	F	R
B	E	A	A	H	O	I	P	E	A	C	H	O	F	A
D	R	I	P	F	T	O	N	P	H	O	F	Z	I	W
S	S	O	R	P	F	O	C	A	U	Ⓑ	Ⓔ	Ⓐ	Ⓝ	B
H	D	I	W	R	U	E	O	I	P	C	S	T	S	E
S	C	N	G	N	E	C	I	M	N	T	C	R	C	R
H	E	I	E	N	I	B	C	N	S	N	A	I	O	R
F	K	R	W	L	A	E	E	I	A	B	A	T	N	Y
S	I	P	A	D	B	T	L	U	N	T	L	M	E	O
S	P	T	U	S	N	O	U	O	L	O	E	A	O	F
S	T	A	E	R	T	A	O	R	V	B	E	D	C	N
E	M	E	R	C	Y	A	S	K	E	E	S	D	I	K
E	L	R	I	W	S	S	O	S	S	E	R	P	S	E

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Last Saturday's Answer: Truthful

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Saipan Tribune

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All applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Application deadline is **5pm on Friday, May 18, 2012.**

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Century Tours is looking for qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions.

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Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing with at least 2 years related experience in the tour and travel industry. Candidate must have strong oral and written communication skills in English and Chinese languages. Must be proficient in the use of MS Word, Excel and Power point. Must be willing to work on holidays, nights and weekends.

Accounting Clerk (1)

Qualifications: Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 2 years work experience in cash management within a busy working environment. Must be proficient in the use of MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure, meet tight deadlines and can work flexible hours.

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Qualifications: High school graduate or GED with at least 1 year of work experience in the hotel and tour industry. Must be able to be prepared to handle multiple assignments at the same time. Must have strong oral and written communication skills in the English and Chinese language. Must be proficient in typing, math, grammar and computers. Successful candidate must be able to handle room bookings and or activity setups as it relates to tourist needs.

Application forms can be picked up at the Human Resource office of Century Tours located at the Saipan Grand Hotel in Beach Road, Susupe.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of : **CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0113 D**

ESTEBAN RASIANG NOGIS, Deceased.

SIXTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Tract No. 22703-3, containing an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 25, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of May, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD W. BURCHER, Jr., Petitioner, vs. **DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER,** Respondent. : **FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0443**

ORDER FOR RESPONDENT DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

TO: DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER

Pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301,YOU are hereby ORDERED to make a personal appearance before the Court or else to file any written response you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within twenty (20) days after publication of this Order in one of the two major daily newspapers in the Commonwealth. You are further directed to deliver or mail a copy of any responsive pleading that you file to Petitioner's attorney, Thomas E. Clifford, whose address is:

2nd Floor, Alexander Building,
San Jose
P.O. Box 506514
Saipan, MP 96950

as soon as practicable after filing. Any responsive pleading should be filed with Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. If you fail either to make a personal appearance or to file a written response in accordance with this Order, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

So ORDERED this 23rd day of January, 2012.

/s/ The Honorable PERRY B. INOS
Associate Judge

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- CARMEN T. ANDON and SAMUEL M. ANDON, Defendants. : **CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0042**

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 308, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 797 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 06 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4414, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 25, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of May, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Lakers outlast Nuggets in thrilling Game 7

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol, left, of Spain reacts after scoring as center Andrew Bynum second from left, guard Kobe Bryant, second from right, forward Metta World Peace look on along with Denver Nuggets center JaVale McGee during the second half in Game 7 in their first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Saturday, May 12, 2012, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pau Gasol had 23 points, 17 rebounds and six assists, Metta World Peace scored 15 points in his return from a seven-game suspension, and the Los Angeles Lakers outlasted the Denver Nuggets for a thrilling 96-87 victory in Game 7 on Saturday night to win their first-round series.

Steve Blake scored a playoff career-high 19 points and Kobe Bryant had 17 points and eight assists for the Lakers, who blew a 16-point lead in the second half before surviving a finale with wild momentum swings and furious physical play. With Gasol leading an emotional effort, the Lakers narrowly avoided becoming the ninth team in NBA history to blow a 3-1 series lead.

Andrew Bynum had 16 points and a career playoff-high 18 rebounds for Los Angeles, which will open the second round Monday night in Oklahoma City against the second-seeded Thunder.

Ty Lawson and Al Harrington scored 24 points apiece for the sixth-seeded Nuggets, who committed 19 turnovers and managed just 7-of-27 shooting in the fourth quarter. Arron Afflalo scored 15 points in just the third Game 7 in franchise history for the Nuggets, who have lost in the first round in eight of the last nine postseasons—but never with this much excitement.

The Lakers appeared to be in control of the series after a narrow victory in Game 4 last weekend, but the Nuggets rallied for two straight dominant victories. Game 7 was a barnburner, with both teams blowing significant leads in the final minutes.

World Peace hit four 3-pointers and energized Los Angeles with tough defense in his return. The former Ron Artest missed Los Angeles' regular-season finale and the first six games against Denver for viciously elbowing Oklahoma City's James Harden, the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year and one of his probable defensive assignments in the next round.

While World Peace shut down Danilo Gallinari and provided unexpected perimeter scoring, Gasol was the Lakers' best player on both ends in the finale, playing with renewed passion after a poor Game 6. Bryant didn't dominate with scoring, but his playmaking helped Blake hit five 3-pointers in a row before missing his sixth attempt.

Gasol put the Lakers ahead for good with a tiebreaking tip-in with 6:30 to play, kicking off an 11-2 Lakers run. Afflalo's 3-pointer cut the lead to 89-84 with 1:09 to play, but Bryant hit a dramatic 3-pointer before Gasol hit two free throws with 31 seconds left, punctuating his phenomenal game with a sweeping punch of his fist.

The Lakers improved to 15-1 in a Game 7 at home, winning 11 straight since the 1969 NBA finals. They've won three straight Game 7s since losing a first-rounder at Phoenix in 2006, also the last time an NBA team blew a 3-1 series lead.

The Lakers narrowly avoided becoming the ninth team to waste a 3-1 lead after losing two closeout games in the previous four days. Los Angeles had been 12-1 in closeout games since acquiring Gasol in 2008 before stumbling twice against the Nuggets, who led for almost every possession of the past two contests.

Gasol's determination was obvious from the opening tip. The four-time All-Star had just three points and three rebounds in Game 6, but he played the finale with emotion and aggression, hustling for loose balls and rebounds while demonstratively celebrating baskets and playing to the crowd.

The Nuggets fell behind 62-46 midway through the third quarter, but erased the entire Lakers lead in a furious 6 1/2-minute stretch led by Lawson, who scored 13 points in the period. Denver took a lead on the first shot of the fourth, but the Lakers never trailed after Blake's 3-pointer with 9:03 left.

Celtics 92, 76ers 91

In Boston, Rajon Rondo has made dozens of last-second dashes to the basket.

This time, he went in the opposite direction.

The Celtics point guard ran into the backcourt, grabbing the inbounds pass in stride, avoiding a foul and dribbling out the final 3.4 seconds to clinch Boston's 92-91 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday night in the opener of their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

"I feel like I could out-quick him. That's what I did," Rondo said. "We knew they had a foul to give. I told Doc (Rivers) to get me the ball and I could use my speed."

Rondo had 17 assists, 13 points and 12 rebounds for his eighth career playoff triple-double. He had six points, five assists and four rebounds in the fourth quarter, when the Celtics went on a 23-7 run to turn a double-digit deficit into a six-point lead with 78 seconds to play.

"He's an amazing player. He really is," Sixers coach Doug Collins said. "He takes that ball wherever he wants to take it on the floor."

Kevin Garnett scored 29 points - his most in the regular- or postseason this year—and added 11 rebounds to help Boston maintain home-court advantage in the best-of-seven, second-round series. Game 2 is Monday night in Boston before the series shifts to Philadelphia for Games 3 and 4.

"If you've watched us all season, we're not going to drop our heads," Collins said. "We live to come back and fight just as hard in Game 2, at least as long as I'm the coach."

Andre Iguodala scored 19 points and Evan Turner had 16 with 10 rebounds for Philadelphia, which advanced to the second round for the first time since 2003 by beating East No. 1 seed Chicago. But Turner couldn't catch Rondo in the final seconds when Philadelphia had a foul to give.

"Rondo just leaps out. That's the last thing on your mind: him going into our side of the court," Iguodala said. "You could have a turnover down there. It's a gamble, but it's a good play. ... We could have done a better job scoping it out."

The Sixers led 77-67 with 11 minutes to play before Boston scored 23 of the next 30 points, with Rondo making a jumper to cut it to 80-79, then another two minutes later to give Boston an 83-82 lead with 3:47 to play.

After Spencer Hawes' basket from the right baseline put the Sixers up 84-83, Rondo drove to the basket and, with his path blocked, turned and handed the ball to Garnett. He banked one in and drew the foul to give Boston a two-point lead, then added another jumper.

After misses by Turner and Lou Williams, Paul Pierce hit a fallaway jumper with 78 seconds left to make it a six-point lead—the Celtics' biggest of the night.

Boston still led by five when Jrue Holiday made a jumper, then Rondo fouled him with 3.4 seconds left and he made both foul shots. Boston inbounded the ball from between the benches, and Rondo sprinted back into the backcourt and outran Turner to the wrong basket as the time expired.

Pierce, who had a sprained MCL in his left knee, scored 14 points on 3-for-11 shooting. Rondo was only 6 for 15 from the floor, but he was 3 for 6 in the fourth quarter, adding five rebounds and four assists.

Hawes scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half.

Both teams advanced by winning their first-round series in six games: Boston beat Atlanta, and Philadelphia eliminated the Bulls to become the fifth No. 8 seed to eliminate a No. 1. They got only one day off before beginning the second round in Boston, where the Celtics earned their only victory against the Sixers this year.

The Sixers scored the first seven points of the game and led by 10 at the end of the first quarter, when Boston shot 30 percent. It was 45-32 when Boston scored 10 of the last 12 points in the half, with Rondo picking up four assists and a steal in the final 3 minutes before the break.

A little more than two minutes into the third, Avery Bradley outraced Rondo to a long rebound and took it in, splitting defenders Iguodala and Holiday for the reverse layup that made it 48-47—Boston's first lead of the game. Philadelphia quickly retook the lead and extended it to eight points.

LeBron James wins 3rd NBA MVP award

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James spent two days trying to figure out the right words. An assistant jotted some ideas on notecards, which were ignored. So when the moment came to deliver his MVP acceptance speech, James spoke emotionally about family, charity, history and what the Miami Heat organization means to him.

And he finished with a flourish.

"Heat nation, we have a bigger goal," James said. "This is very overwhelming to me as an individual award. But this is not the award I want, ultimately. I want that championship. That's all that matters to me."

James accepted his third NBA MVP award Saturday, making him the eighth player in league history to win that many. The others—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan, Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson and Moses Malone—all have won NBA titles.

On Sunday, James resumes that quest.

"He's going to get his," Heat President Pat Riley said. "He will get his championship. And there might be a lot more there, too."

James received 85 of a possible 121 first-place votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters who cover the league, with fans on NBA.com combining for one vote. He earned 1,074 points, topping Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant (889 points, 24 first-place votes), the Los Angeles Clippers' Chris Paul (385, six first-place votes), the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (352, two first-place votes), and San Antonio's Tony Parker (331, four first-place votes).

James lauded the other top candidates for the MVP, and lauded his teammates and those around him even more.

"This is a team game and I wouldn't be receiving what I've received in the past and now in the present without my teammates and without my family and friends who've helped me to this point," James said away from the stage. "Even though it's an individual award, I always go back to my teammates. I always go back to my friends and my family. No one can do it alone."

When the results were released, Durant offered congratulations.

"LeBron, that's like unheard of for a guy to get three out of four MVPs," Durant said. "A good friend of mine. I'm happy for him and of course I would love to have the MVP but at the same time, I've just got to keep improving, keep getting better and hopefully I'll have one soon."

The way some around the Heat see it, Saturday could have been a fourth straight MVP for James.

His numbers this season—27.1 points, 7.9 rebounds and 6.2 assists and 1.9 steals per game on 53 percent shooting—are extremely comparable to last season, when he finished a distant third in the MVP race behind Derrick Rose and Dwight Howard.

Similar numbers. Much better result. And James understands why.

A year ago, following all the fallout that accompanied his decision to leave Cleveland and sign with Miami, James realized there was no way he was going to have voters back him for a third straight season. Long before the results were in, James knew the 2011 MVP wasn't going to be his.

"I just felt like there was nothing good that was going to come out as far as the individual accolades," James said. "I wanted to be an MVP for this team, but it didn't matter to me what the outside world was saying. It didn't matter what the voters were saying last year. It was just about this team."

"I'm not saying that's changed," he added, "but I think time heals all."

Orioles beat error-ridden Rays, 5-3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Baltimore's Adam Jones had a pair of hits and knocked in two runs as the Orioles took advantage of five Tampa Bay errors to beat the Rays 5-3 on Saturday.

Bill Hall hit a solo homer for the Orioles,who struck out 12 times but scored three unearned runs to beat their nearest rival for top spot in the American League East division.

Baltimore starter Brian Matusz (2-4) gave up two earned runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Tampa Bay starter Matt Moore (1-3) walked four and allowed four runs in 4 1-3 innings.

AP

From left, Baltimore Orioles outfielders Ryan Flaherty, Adam Jones and Nick Markakis celebrate their 5-3 win against the Tampa Bay Rays in a baseball game, Saturday, May 12, 2012, in Baltimore.

Angels 4, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Kendrys Morales hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning to lead Los Angeles over Texas.

Angels starter C.J. Wilson worked into the sixth to become the first major leaguer in 11 seasons to start consecutive games. He had faced only five batters before a rain delay in the series opener.

Mark Trumbo launched a towering two-run homer for the Angels off Matt Harrison (4-3).

Rangers slugger Josh Hamilton hit his majors-leading 18th homer and ninth in six games.

Los Angeles reliever David Carpenter (1-1) took the win, facing only two batters after replacing Wilson before the Angels took the lead in the seventh.

Athletics 3, Tigers 1

In Oakland, Brandon McCarthy matched a career high by pitching 10 strikeouts after missing his previous start with shoulder soreness, leading Oakland past Detroit.

He scattered four hits over seven innings to silence concerns about another serious injury setback. McCarthy (3-3) had struck out 10 batters only twice before.

Jonny Gomes, Cliff Pennington and Daric Barton each drove in a run for the A's.

Tigers starter Doug Fister had his scoreless streak ended at 11 innings when Gomes singled in the first. Fister (0-1) took the loss despite allowing only one run in six innings.

Yankees 6, Mariners 2

In New York, Phil Hughes won consecutive starts for the first time this season, steering New York past Seattle.

Hughes (3-4) allowed one run and one walk in 7 2-3 innings.

New York's Raul Ibanez homered against his former team for the second straight day.

Former Yankees prospect Hector Noesi (2-4) lasted seven innings for the Mariners, allowing five runs.

Red Sox 4, Indians 1

In Boston, Felix Doubront pitched six strong innings to direct Boston to a win over Cleveland.

Doubront (3-1) allowed one run, which was all the Indians would get as the Red Sox relievers didn't allow a baserunner over the final three innings.

Cody Ross homered for the Red Sox.

Cleveland starter Zach McAllister (1-1) was recalled from the minors early in the day. He gave up eight hits over as many innings.

Royals 5, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Luke Hochevar pitched seven shutout innings as Kansas City defeated Chicago.

Hochevar (3-3) cruised, walking one and striking out five, rebounding from two rough starts.

Kansas City scored three first-inning runs off Chris Sale (3-2) who was making his first start in two weeks and lasted five innings.

Blue Jays 2, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Jose Bautista homered for the third time in two nights, lifting Toronto over struggling Minnesota.

Bautista has just nine hits over his past 53 at-bats, but five of them have been home runs. His sixth-inning solo shot against Twins starter P.J. Walters (0-1) was the game-winner.

Blue Jays starter Drew Hutchison (2-1), in just his fifth start above the AA level of the minors, threw six strong innings. Casey Janssen picked up his second save in as many chances.

Braves 7, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Atlanta's Brandon Beachy allowed only two singles in six innings, and helped himself by driving in a run, as the Braves beat the St. Louis Cardinals.

Beachy (4-1) lowered his ERA to 1.60, fifth best in the National League.

Michael Bourn hit his first homer of the season, and went 3 for 6 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

Atlanta did most of its damage against Cardinals starter Adam Wainright (2-4), who lasted just 4 1-3 innings, allowing five runs with five walks.

Mets 9, Marlins 3

In Miami, David Wright homered and singled three times in his fourth consecutive multihit game as New York beat Miami.

Wright singled home a run in the first inning, hit a homer in the third, singled and scored in the sixth, and added an RBI single in the ninth, raising his batting average to an NL-best .402. His on-base percentage of .489 leads the majors.

Mets starter R.A. Dickey (5-1) gave up two runs and has allowed only seven in his past four starts. The knuckleballer also earned a painful RBI when he was hit on his pitching hand in the fifth inning with the bases loaded. He stayed in the game as New York made it six wins from seven games.

Marlins starter Ricky Nolasco (4-1) missed a chance to break the team record for career victories and remained on 68. He allowed six runs in 4 2-3 innings.

Dodgers 2, Rockies 1

In Los Angeles, the hosts improved to the best record in the majors by edging Colorado.

Dodgers starter Aaron Harang (2-2) pitched eight solid innings, allowing only one run and escaping a bases-loaded jam in the third .

Tony Gwynn Jr. hit a go-ahead RBI single for Los Angeles which improved to 22-11, while handing a seventh loss in eight games to the Rockies, who dropped a season-worst 8 1/2 games off the National League West lead.

Kenley Jansen got three outs for his third save in four attempts.

Colorado's Josh Outman (0-1) took the loss.

Nationals 2, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Jordan Zimmermann extended Washington's streak of dominant starts, leading the Nationals past Cincinnati.

Zimmermann (2-3) struck out nine. Washington's starters have allowed one earned run or fewer 19 times this season.

Danny Espinosa homered for the second straight game, a tiebreaking shot in the sixth off Jose Arredondo (2-1).

The Nationals lost catcher Wilson Ramos, whose right leg buckled while he chased a passed ball in the seventh inning. He had to be helped from the field.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Matt Cain conceded only one run in six innings while driving in a pair of runs to help San Francisco end a nine-game losing streak against Arizona.

Cain (2-2) struck out eight in his first victory in five outings. Trevor Cahill (2-4) took the loss as the Diamondbacks were beaten for the sixth time in seven games.

Cain singled twice. His second brought in two runs after Cahill had hit consecutive batters with two outs in the sixth.

Pirates 5, Astros 2

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen had a solo home run among his four hits, helping Pittsburgh down Houston.

McCutchen went 4 for 4, adding three singles. He had three hits in as many at-bats against Houston starter J.A. Happ (2-3), giving him six consecutive hits against left-handed pitching and improving his average against lefties to .452.

Jose Tabata also homered for the Pirates, who matched a season high for most runs at PNC Park.

Pittsburgh starter Charlie Morton (2-3) rebounded from consecutive poor starts and allowed one earned run in six innings.

Brewers 8, Cubs 2

In Milwaukee, Shaun Marcum pitched seven strong innings to guide Milwaukee past Chicago.

Marcum (2-1) gave up just one run and had six strikeouts. After giving up a run in the first he did not allow a runner past second, retiring 10 of the last 11 he faced.

Edwin Maysonet hit his first career grand slam for the Brewers in a game which started less than 12 hours after the completion of their Friday night game, which went 13 innings and five hours.

Chris Volstad (0-5) pitched six innings for the Cubs, giving up six runs. He has gone 18 starts without a win.

Padres 2, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Edinson Volquez pitched six effective innings as San Diego edged Philadelphia.

Volquez (2-2) escaped a few jams early in the game and then again in the fifth inning. He allowed one run and struck out five.

Jesus Guzman drove in the go-ahed run with a sacrifice fly off Phillies ace Roy Halladay (3-3), who is winless in his past five starts, the longest stretch in his Phillies career. He allowed seven hits in seven innings and took the loss despite pitching 10 strikeouts.

Na takes a 1-shot lead at Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Kevin Na didn't feel comfortable about anything Saturday except his name atop the leaderboard at The Players Championship.

Na rolled in a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole for one of only three rounds without a bogey on a tough day at the TPC Sawgrass. It gave him a 4-under 68 and a one-shot lead over Matt Kuchar as he goes after the richest prize on the PGA Tour—a five-year exemption and a spot in all the majors.

For all his practice swings and waggles, even purposely missing the ball so he could start over, Na pieced together a brilliant round free of bogeys. He finished with two birdies on the last three holes to build a one-shot lead over Matt Kuchar, who hit into the water at the island-green 17th and had to settle for a 69.

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Rickie Fowler, coming off his first PGA Tour win last week at Quail Hollow, was dynamic as ever as he shot up the leaderboard. Fowler didn't make a bogey until the last hole but still had the best score of the third round with a 66 and was two shots behind.

He is trying to become the first player since David Duval in 1997 to win his first two PGA Tour titles in consecutive weeks.

Texas Open champion Ben Curtis also played bogey-free. He just didn't have as many birdies, missing from inside 10 feet on his last two holes for a 70. He was five shots behind, along with former Masters champion Zach Johnson (73).

Tiger Woods never came close to getting into contention, though he gave himself plenty of chances. The card shows two birdies, two bogeys and a 72 that left him 10 shots out of the lead going into the final round. It was hard for him to digest.

"I played well today and didn't get anything out of that round," Woods said. "It was probably the most solid I've hit the golf ball all year, actually. Even though I hit a couple off line, they were just hit dead flush. I just got nothing out of the round."

Kuchar went eight consecutive holes without a par—six birdies and two bogeys—to seize control on a windy day at Sawgrass. But he slightly missed on his tee shot at the par-3 17th and never came close to land. He did well to hit his third shot from the drop area to 5 feet to escape with bogey.

"It was exciting," Kuchar said. "A lot of birdies and a lot more bogeys than I normally make. But I knew today was going to be a tricky day. I knew there were going to be a lot of bogeys. I knew there were dangers around every corner."

Na managed to avoid them, and now tries to become the first 54-hole leader to win The Players Championship since the tournament moved to May.

"I know how to play under pressure," Na said. "I've won before. I've been in situations like this. I've got to take everything I've learned and do my best."

He was at 12-under 204.

Tsunami Saipan to conduct ARC swim lessons next month

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will be conducting American Red Cross swim lessons next month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The American Red Cross 2012 Summer Swimming Lessons will be held from June 13 to June 16. Tsunami Saipan said the lessons are open to children 5 years old or older and the club is not accepting toddlers.

Tsunami Saipan coaches and senior swimmers will be conducting the lessons. The schedule sessions are as follows:

■ June 13 first lesson start 10am-11:00am at Mariana Resort & Spa pool

■ June 14 second lesson 10am-11am Kan Pacific Swimming Pool

■ June 15 third lesson 10am-11am Kan Pacific Swimming Pool

■ June 16 fourth and final lesson 10am-11am Kan Pacific Swimming Pool

For registration, email tsunamisaipan@yahoo.co.jp confirm or call 989-8425.

Tsunami Saipan said when a child is confirmed, the club will give his or her parents a confirmation number. They can then present this confirmation number when they register.

Registration, on a first-come, first-serve basis, will start on June 13, 9:30am at the Mariana Resort & Spa lobby.

Cost is $25 per person, second and more per family is $20 each. Red Cross certificates will be issued after the lessons. *(Mark Rabago)*

NMASA

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law that created NMASA in 1984 (Public Law 4-66), the organization is responsible for the operation of the facility.

The statute said NMASA's responsibilities include the operation, maintenance, and regulation of the sports facilities and fields in the Commonwealth in coordination with the DCCA, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Education, Department of Public Works, and Office of the Governor.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	22	12	.647	–
Tampa Bay	20	14	.588	2
New York	19	14	.576	2 1/2
Toronto	19	15	.559	3
Boston	14	19	.424	7 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	18	15	.545	–
Detroit	16	17	.485	2
Chicago	16	18	.471	2 1/2
Kansas City	12	20	.375	5 1/2
Minnesota	9	24	.273	9

West Division

Texas	22	12	.647	–
Oakland	18	16	.529	4
Los Angeles	15	19	.441	7
Seattle	15	20	.429	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	21	12	.636	–
Atlanta	21	13	.618	1/2
New York	19	14	.576	2
Miami	17	16	.515	4
Philadelphia	15	19	.441	6 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	20	13	.606	–
Cincinnati	16	16	.500	3 1/2
Houston	15	18	.455	5
Milwaukee	15	18	.455	5
Pittsburgh	15	18	.455	5
Chicago	13	20	.394	7

West Division

Los Angeles	22	11	.667	–
San Francisco	16	17	.485	6
Arizona	15	19	.441	7 1/2
Colorado	13	19	.406	8 1/2
San Diego	12	22	.353	10 1/2

PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP)–Scores Saturday at The Players Championship, a US PGA Tour event on the 7,215-yard, par-72 Players Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass:

THIRD ROUND

Kevin Na	67-69-68	–204
Matt Kuchar	68-68-69	–205
Rickie Fowler	72-69-66	–207
Ben Curtis	68-71-70	–209
Zach Johnson	70-66-73	–209
Jhonattan Vegas	68-74-68	–210
Brian Davis	68-70-72	–210
Jonathan Byrd	68-70-72	–210
Martin Laird	65-73-72	–210
Johnson Wagner	69-73-69	–211
Bo Van Pelt	71-70-70	–211
Blake Adams	66-73-72	–211
Charlie Wi	71-67-73	–211
Sergio Garcia	73-71-68	–212
David Mathis	72-71-69	–212
Carl Pettersson	71-72-69	–212
Phil Mickelson	71-71-70	–212
Martin Kaymer	73-69-70	–212
Jeff Maggert	70-71-71	–212
Ian Poulter	65-76-71	–212
Tim Clark	71-70-71	–212
Jimmy Walker	71-70-71	–212
Brendon de Jonge	69-71-72	–212
Kevin Streelman	72-68-72	–212
Kevin Stadler	68-71-73	–212
Adam Scott	68-70-74	–212
Harrison Frazar	68-76-69	–213
John Rollins	72-72-69	–213
Geoff Ogilvy	70-73-70	–213
Henrik Stenson	71-71-71	–213
John Huh	75-66-72	–213
Luke Donald	72-69-72	–213
Bill Haas	68-71-74	–213
Bryce Molder	72-72-70	–214
Pat Perez	69-75-70	–214
Brian Gay	71-72-71	–214
Chris Couch	72-71-71	–214
Spencer Levin	74-68-72	–214
Tiger Woods	74-68-72	–214
Jim Furyk	72-70-72	–214
Tom Gillis	70-71-73	–214
Michael Thompson	68-71-75	–214
Peter Hanson	73-71-71	–215
Kris Blanks	69-74-72	–215
Sung Kang	75-68-72	–215
Ricky Barnes	74-69-72	–215
Lee Westwood	71-70-74	–215
Chris Kirk	71-73-72	–216
Alvaro Quiros	72-72-72	–216
Trevor Immelman	72-72-72	–216
David Toms	69-74-73	–216
Marc Leishman	73-70-73	–216
Keegan Bradley	72-70-74	–216
Ryan Moore	69-72-75	–216
Harris English	70-67-79	–216
Justin Leonard	75-68-74	–217
Nick Watney	71-70-76	–217
Brian Harman	73-68-76	–217
J.J. Henry	71-73-74	–218
Bob Estes	73-69-76	–218
Josh Teater	71-71-76	–218
Justin Rose	76-68-75	–219
Robert Allenby	72-72-75	–219
Graham DeLaet	71-73-76	–220
Robert Karlsson	70-74-76	–220
Jason Dufner	73-71-76	–220
David Hearn	69-75-77	–221
Cameron Tringale	73-71-77	–221
Rod Pampling	71-72-78	–221
Heath Slocum	73-70-78	–221
Stewart Cink	71-72-78	–221
George McNeill	70-73-82	–225

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MHS

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tains Madeleine Alegre and Kyanna Tenorio with Pamela Ada, Nicole Arboliras, Sierra Calvo, Clarisse Cayabyab, Laritolyn Itibus, Ajette Manabaf, and Mary Lyn Waing making up the rest of the crew.

The teams are coached by Bobby Cruz, Andrew Nissen, Dave Barnhouse, and Max Garcia.

In recognition of the squads, MHS will have its name engraved on MISO's perpetual team trophies and get to display the awards in their showcase until next year.

The championship event featured a preliminary 1,500-meter and 500m round of race followed by a second set of final two heats, worth double the points. Only two schools participated in the season. First place was awarded 10 points per race with six points allowed for second.

It was a tight race all season long in the girls division as the MHS girls held a slight edge, 60-52, heading into Saturday's final event.

Defending champion Lady Manta Rays won the opening 1,500m preliminary heat by 30 seconds with a strong post time of 9:39:4 to pull within four points, 62-66, but MHS dug out the 500m sprint preliminary race by just four seconds in 2:54:32 and had plenty left in the tank during the final rounds.

SSHS (9:39:38) did not go quietly in the 1,500m final, but fell again by just over three seconds to the Lady Dolphins' mark of 9:36:12.

The new kids on the block went on to notch a swift victory in the closing 500m sprint in under three minutes at 2:54:78 to finish the season in first place with an overall point total of 116; SSHS crossed the pole at 3:08:78 and settled for second place with 92 total points on the year.

The MHS boys held a more comfortable, 66-46, margin before Saturday's games, which grew even more after the opening 1,500m preliminary heat.

The Dolphins completed the leg in 8:34:22 ahead of the Manta Rays (8:47:17) and hit them again in the 500m early heat by over 15 seconds with a mark of 2:36:33.

MHS led by over 30 points, 86-58, heading into the final two races and the group willed its way to complete the sweep.

The Dolphins came to the beach over a minute ahead of SSHS (9:46:00) in the 1,500m final in 8:43:42 and rubbed salt in the wound in the 500m finale with a winning post time of 2:32:50. SSHS finished the leg in 2:44:36.

The final tally showed MHS running away with it at the end with a stout 126-82 cushion.

BERDAX

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Berdax clawed back from an early four-run deficit to overcome Elias, 9-6, on Friday to punch its fourth win in seven tries, while Saipal improved to a 5-4 slate after holding on against Talu Fahn (2-7), 19-14, last Wednesday

Also on Friday, women's frontrunner Check It Out (5-1) bounced back from a recent upset with a sound 18-8 win over 670 Babes (3-3), while men's Manelos (5-3) defeated Familia (4-6), 15-11.

Then this past Wednesday, men's league co-leader Man Amigos (7-1) downed Six Pack (2-4), 14-4, to rebound from a recent fault, while the Warriors (3-4) stunned X-clusive (3-5), 17-14.

Manelos 15, Familia 11

Manelos assumed control, 6-2, in the first inning off a two-RBI single by Niko Martin, a double by Pat Alepuyo, and a two-run home run by Pete Tomokane.

Familia responded with a seven-run tear in the second inning off eight hits. Lawrence Dikito and Nizer Masayo bagged RBI singles and Pat Guerrero a two-RBI base rip.

Manelos' Jun Cruz whacked an RBI double and was driven home by Martin to pull within a run in the bottom frame and the crew took the lead, 10-9, in the third off an early error and an RBI single by Shane Mendiola.

Familia left runners on the corners at the start of fourth and left another pair of men on the path in the fifth before Manelos struck again with five runs from a pair of homers by Tomokane and Derick Aughenbaugh and some costly errors late in the inning.

Manelos hung tough out on the field and contained Familia to only one run in the sixth and seventh frames.

Check It Out 18, 670 Babes 8

Check It Out made a statement in the opening frame and put up a baker's dozen off 10 hits to storm ahead, 13-4.

Jovie Omar, Lani Cruz, and Eula Matsumoto bagged RBI singles, while Sandy Leon Guerrero bashed a two-RBI base hit. Then the second time through the lineup, Minami Tadokoro and Omar each pulled around on a two-RBI base knock and Connie Camacho finished the run with a RBI single.

Later in the third the 670 Babes managed three runs in the top of the third inning, but Check It Out slapped them back down with a trio of runs in the bottom frame that came in off a double by Omar and a base smash by Camacho.

670 Babes were stood up again in the fifth inning as Check It Out countered their effort in the fifth inning to secure the run rule victory.

Check It Out's Omar batted 4-for-4 with four RBIs and three runs.

Berdax 9, Elias 6

Elias held a brief 6-2 lead after bringing around five runs in the top of the second off four hits and a pair of sacrifice flies by Mike Cruz and Mel Manahane. Rod Camacho started the burst with a lead-off solo blast and his teammate Jay Tilipao cracked an RBI double in the inning.

Berdax got two runs back in the bottom side with a handful of drives and pulled ahead, 7-6, in the third inning thanks to a pair of long balls by Ben Taisacan and Frank Robert. Dave Camacho Jr. came around with the former.

Elias' offense faded from the midpoint after leaving runners on the corners to start the third and managed only one other runner in scoring position for the rest of the game.

Their defense kept them in the game for the next two innings, but Berdax eventually grinded out two insurance runs in the sixth off an error and a sac fly by John Taitano.

Saipal 19, Talu Fahn 4

Saipal amassed a daunting 12-2 lead after the first inning. A lead-off walk and a couple of base hits set the table for a three-RBI double by Gloyd Martin.

The group peppered six other hits including pair of RBI singles by Leo Bobai and Luis Ngiraikelau and a two-RBI smash by Clifton Silil.

Both teams came up dry in the second inning and then they each traded two runs in the third that bumped the count up to 14-4. Talu Fahn took advantage of some errors in the top portion, while Saipal snuck its runs home off an error and an RBI base knock by Silil.

Talu Fahn could not get things going in the fourth inning and Saipal manufactured the four runs needed for the early decision in the bottom frame.

A three-run bomb by Ngiraikelau highlighted the deciding heave.

Warriors 17, X-clusive 14

The Warriors built a 5-2 edge in the first frame off some early blunders and a three-run blast by Sydney Kani and quickly loading the bases in the second inning as they accrued four more runs off a sacrifice fly by Melvin Keller and a three-run shot by leadoff man MacGarry Scaliem Jr..

X-clusive countered with seven runs in the top of the third to knot up the match at 9-all off eight hits. Mike Manas belted an RBI double, J.J. Cabrera an RBI single, Vince Cepeda left the yard for three runs and two other runs came in off a double by George David and an RBI single from Ben Sablan.

X-clusive's Cabrera and Fred Sato powered a couple of homers to lead a four-run surge in the fourth inning and the count then shifted to 14-10 as both teams sifted out a run in the fifth frame.

After both teams made a pitching change in the sixth, the Warriors lucked out with seven runs off just two hits. Five walks and two errors allowed most of the run to the plate, though Kani managed an RBI single in the mess.

The Warriors finished strong as well and ended the game with a double play up the middle.

Man Amigos 14, Six Pack 4

Six Pack held a 4-2 lead after two innings until Man Amigos' John Terlaje belted a two-RBI single to lock it at 4-all in the third inning.

Six Pack must have split a couple of cans as its offense ran dry for the remainder of the contest, while Man Amigos pressed on to an 8-4 lead in the fourth inning off four hits. Roy Celis and Manny Sablan hammered a pair of two-run homers.

They added three more in the fifth off an error and two RBI base rips by James Fleming and Ben Jones and added another three in the sixth before closing up a frame early.

Man Amigos' Celis batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs and a run.

13 TEAMS

From Page 28

have had more and more players asking to be placed on a team. The community just loves this tournament…it may very be the most popular fundraiser tourney of them all!"

Each team is sponsored by a local business who has generously donated to the Crime Stoppers Program this year.

Every player will receive team T-shirt in addition to a weekend of exercise and fun and the public is invited to attend and to cheer on their favorite team.

"This tournament allows Crime Stoppers to function for an entire year with its entirely volunteer board and the local program wants to express its appreciation for receiving support from this year's participants," shared Arenovski.

There are many unsolved crimes in the CNMI, including the disappearance last year of the Luhk sisters, the recent brutal murder of Emie Romero, and the highly publicized rape in Garapan. These criminals remain free to this day, and Crime Stoppers is committed to continuing to work with law enforcement to bring all criminals to justice. One solid tip from the community to the Crime Stoppers hotline may be enough to allow the Department of Public Safety to solve these horrific crimes.

The NMI Crime Stoppers' hotline is 234-7272 (PARA); cash rewards of up to $1,000 are paid for tips leading to an arrest.

Weekend Sports

Comets, junior netters rise

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It was a very eventful week for the Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero Dandan Comets and top junior netters Thea Minor and Christian Miller after they won the championships in the Major League and CNMI Junior Tennis Championships, respectively.

The Comets won the 2012 Saipan Little League's youngest division after defeating the Natibu Sports Association Talaabwogh Falcons, 3-1, last May 6.

The Comets, which went undefeated in the regular season and playoffs, was made up of Christopher Achas, Ethan Babauta, Edmund Cruz, Erik Cruz, Austin Hocog, Austin Indalecio, Rejay Iskawa, Aurel Mendiola, Kody Rabauliman, Lorenzo Sebaklim, Tryique Wally, Vincent Taman, and Norman Villagomez.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero Dandan Comets flash the No. 1 sign after winning the championship of the 2012 Saipan Little League Major Division, 3-1, over the Natibu Sports Association Talaabwogh Falcons last May 6 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Comets' Aurel Mendiola gets ready to unload on a pitch during the Major Division championship game against the Falcons last May 6.

Minor, meanwhile, matched Kana Aikawa's four straight CNMI Junior Tennis Championships girls 18-and-under singles championships also last May 6 after defeating older sister Thecel in the finals, 6-0, 6-0.

Miller, for his part, won his very first 18-and-under title later that day after outlasting defending champion Rafael Jones in a three-set, 6-7, 6-2, 6-4.

In the 9th Annual Escape from Managaha last May 5, Victoria Chentsova beat fellow Saipan Swim Club senior swimmer Kento Akimaru as 40 other intrepid swimmers completed the 2.4-kilometer channel between Managaha Island and American Memorial Park's Micro Beach.

The week also saw Barracuda/Mantas defeat the Sharks/Dolphins, 28-16, to win the Garapan Community Development Center's 2012 U17 Girls Basketball League.

Fabi Muna and Norbert Pangelinan also took home the top prize in Tinian's 13th Cliff Fishing Derby after catching a 48-lb Trevali.

Matches in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's men's, women's, and youth league, the Saipan Major League, older divisions of the Saipan Little League, the Chamolinian Softball League, as well as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls fast-pitch softball league also continued this past week.

MARK RABAGO

Christian Miller serves to Rafael Jones during the boys 18-and-under championship match in the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last May 6 at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

MARK RABAGO

Christian Miller and Thea Minor, right, teamed up together to win the boys 18-and-under doubles title of the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships. At their right are runners-up Seiya Eda and Amami Sakano.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Joseph Cruz and chair Steve Cabrera show off the jackpot catch of Fabi Muna and Nobert Pangelinan which they caught around the waters of Fleming Point I on Tinian. The catch was the toast of the 13th Cliff Fishing Derby.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Barracudas/Mantas players pose for a group photo with their championship trophy after winning the GCDC's U17 Girls Basketball League Postseason Tournament last May 6 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

MARK RABAGO

Victoria Chentsova, who topped last May 5's 9th Annual Escape from Managaha, greets two of Saipan Swim Club's younger members as they completed the 2.4-kilometer channel between Managaha Island and American Memorial Park's Micro Beach.

MARK RABAGO

The mother-and-daughter pair of Caro Lynn, right and Jennifer Pierce came out of the surf together seconds after R.J. Pierce, the former's grandson, finished the Escape from Managaha Island.

Lakers outlast Nuggets in thrilling Game 7

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Sports

Orioles beat error-ridden Rays, 5-3

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MHS sweeps 2012 outrigger season

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Marianas High School's boys and girls outriggers squads came away with the championships of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization 2012 season after defeating Saipan Southern High School's respective teams in Saturday's boys and girls finals held in the waters off Killili Beach.

The MHS Dolphins are made up of team captains Mike Johnson and Jason Limes with J.P. Aglubat, Mark Caacbay, A.J. Cabrera, Frankie Camacho, Cain Castro, Walter Florencio, Kyle Hocog, Norman Pangelinan, and R.J. Villagomez manning the oars.

The Lady Dolphins, meanwhile, include cap-

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Marianas High School's boys and girls outrigger teams pose for a group photo after sweeping the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organziation 2012 Outrigger championships last Saturday at Killili Beach.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Berdax, Saipal back in green in CSA softball

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Berdax's Frank Robert in action against Elias in their Chamolinian Softball Association game at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Berdax and Saipal notched wins over separate opponents that leveled them up with winning record in the Chamolinian Softball Association standings as the 2nd Budweiser Softball League 2012 season continued last week at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

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NMASA seeks Legislature's help to take over 'deteriorating' facility

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association wants the Legislature to appropriate the Commonwealth's sports governing body a budget so it could take over and finally run the Oleai Sports Complex.

In a letter to House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), NMASA president Michael A. White asked the Legislature for money to run the facility because "under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the CNMI's premier sports facility continues to deteriorate, and has not been managed in a manner which maximizes its potential to serve our people."

Just last week, the United Filipino Organization was forced to postpone its 2012 UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League after one of the fiberglass basketball backstops at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was broken.

White also reiterated that under CNMI law "responsibility for the management and control of the Oleai Sports Complex is vested in the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association."

He, however, said the lack of appropriation from the CNMI government has not allowed NMASA to exercise this function and this forced the organization to just allow the Division Sports and Recreation to operate and manage the facilities.

White

White said with advise from the Saipan Legislative Delegation, NMASA has submitted a budget request to the Governor's Office the last two fiscal years—2012 and 2013—but to its disappointment the "budget request was not included in the budget submission transmitted to the Legislature by the Governor's Office."

The Oleai Sports Complex includes the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field, the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, and the Oleai track oval and football field.

A tug of war between NMASA and DCCA on the operations of the Oleai Sports Complex has been going on since last year.

This after Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) introduced a bill (House Bill 17-268) seeking to give NMASA the control of the complex.

In the pending House bill, NMASA's control is only limited within the Oleai Sports Complex in accordance with the terms and conditions of a memorandum to be executed only among NMASA, the DCCA secretary, and the governor.

NMASA argues that under the

See NMASA on Page 26

13 teams enter Crime Stoppers softball tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A total of nine teams—led by defending champion Mar-Pac—have so far signed up for this weekend's 2012 Annual Crime Stoppers Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament.

Aside from Mar-Pac other squads that have thrown their hat in this year's competition are Duty Free Shopping, Pacific Islands Club, I "Heart" Saipan store, Bridge Capital, Shell/IP&E, AON Insurance, Delta Airlines, IT&E, Docomo Pacific, Megabyte/Marianas Legal Strategy Group, Bank of Guam, and Pacific Amusement.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament will be held from May 18 to May 20 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

"Each year, the tournament results is a great deal of fun for participants and fans and generates loads of excitement" said Crime Stoppers' Jill Arenovski.

Tournament coordinator Vinnie Sablan added, "As the event's popularity has grown year after year, I

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The 2012 Annual Crime Stoppers Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament gets going this weekend at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.